

PHENOMENA

The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

ISSUE 12 - APRIL 2010

SPECIAL
Maritime
EDITION

**IN THE PRESS
LATEST INVESTIGATIONS
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN
THE LEGEND OF MERMAID POOL
BYTES OF PYE - UPDATE ON THE STARCHILD SKULL
UNIDENTIFIED SUBMERSIBLE OBJECTS
THE NATURE OF GHOSTS
AND MUCH MORE**



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**BEAST OF BUCKSHAW
INVESTIGATED**

**LARGE BLACK CAT
SEEN IN RUNCORN**

**THE TOP 10
GHOST SHIPS**

Editorial...

Well, it seems as if the lighter nights are once again on the increase; which usually means that there will be less reported sightings of large black cats and a growing of reported crop formations. The earliest last year being April.

So I expect to see the odd one or two popping up throughout the month. MAPIT and UPIA have a number of outdoor experiments to conduct this year which include photographic techniques and analysis. I'd like to thank Bruce Maccabee for his input in regards last months 'Heavens Above' article by Phil Bordley. We are currently in discussion with Bruce regarding the two submitted photographs which accompanied the article. We hope to bring you further information about this in the near future. This month I have spent a couple of weeks visiting locations in Anglesey, Wales in regards to paranormal hot spots and alleged haunted walks which will be featured in Phenomena Magazine later this year. Also with an offer of checking out a 3500 year old burial chamber at the bottom of someone's garden could not go a miss, I'm sure you'll agree.

Over the last three months MAPIT's and UPIA's investigations have tendered to lean towards big cat sightings and the paranormal, such as alleged haunted hotels and public houses. Reported UFO incidents were rather low after the Christmas and New Year spate of Fire Lanterns. In fact, there were that many over the holiday period, MAPIT needed to design a special web page on their site entitled UFO Misidentifications, explaining how these lanterns work and what they look like. Due to the lack of reported UFO incidents, next months Phenomena Magazine will feature a number of articles in relation to UFOs and alleged Alien Abductions. MAPIT's last reported case of an alleged Alien Abduction was in 1996. Since then we have had no new reports. Some believe that the subject of Alien Abduction is media driven, thus explaining why most of the UKs reported Alien Abduction cases took place during the transmission of the X-Files TV series. There are also, those investigators that have specialised in this subject and believe that there is simply a decrease in incidents taking place. Be it media driven or the general absence of incidents. One thing is for sure. The Alien Abduction phenomena seems to be a subject of the past; (that is, if you don't live in America). The subject of Alien Abduction throughout the U.S. is still very much alive and kicking...

Finally, I would like to thank our readers that have purchased my recent book 'Strange Happenings'. I am currently working on my next project which will be advertised at the up and coming LAPIS Conference on May 22nd 2010. I will be attending along with Dave Sadler.

For further details please visit:

<http://www.lapisufo.com/2010-lapis-ufo-conference.html>

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UPIA ON THE HUNT FOR A BIG CAT.



Big cat sighting near Norton Priory, Manor Park, Runcorn.

Recently, a team of UPIA investigators descended upon Runcorn in search of evidence to support the claims of two local witnesses, who say they saw a large Black Cat in the area. On visiting the area UPIA investigators quickly realised that even though there is a considerable amount of water near by such as canals and ponds, the location was relatively small and had often use by residents walking their pets. Numerous tracks were obtained from the area as well as the discovery of bones. Some of the tracks were obviously belonging to a fox however others did look similar to those belonging to the Pine Marten. Such animals known to reside in Scottish woodlands have been seen in Wales and other locations which are only around 20 miles away from Runcorn. No evidence of scat was found nor tree clawing. The bones which were found belonged to a cooked turkey. Obvious evidence of scavenging from local bins.

At this time UPIA believe a large Black Cat in the location is possible but due to location and food source, probably unlikely. As for Pine Marten's, again there is a possibility. The witness statements are rather weak, however UPIA will continue to monitor the location...



THE LEGEND OF MERMAID POOL

BY DAVE SADLER

Mermaid Pool or Black Mere Pool, in the North Staffordshire Moors near the town of Leek, is the site of one of the only inland mermaid legends in England. The small, remote hilltop lake, around fifty metres wide, is a particularly haunting site. Set on the craggy and barren southern edge of the Peak District, beside the Leek to Buxton road, it is said that the dark peat-stained waters of the pool are bottomless; cattle refuse to drink there and birds never fly above it. Tradition holds that the mermaid rises from the pool at midnight to lure unwary travellers to their deaths in the dark watery depths – but only single men, apparently.



There are various legends concerning the origin of the mermaid. In one, a sailor from nearby Thorncliff fell in love with her and brought her back from sea, and in another she was originally a witch who transformed herself into a water nymph after been thrown into the pool during the Middle Ages.



The mermaid legend can certainly be traced back to the mid nineteenth century when a wayside inn, around half a kilometre downhill from the pool, was renamed The Mermaid after the legend. The Mermaid Inn is now both a pub and restaurant with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. At almost 500 metres above sea level, it claims to be the highest restaurant in England. If you want to hear tales of the mermaid you only have to visit the inn and you'll find plenty of patrons keen to tell you that they know someone who has seen strange things up at the pool. Although I have been unable to speak to anyone who has actually claimed to have seen anything themselves, reports refer to weird curtains or pillars of light seen floating above the water at night. The site was also the scene of a murder and an attempted murder, one night, many years ago, a young lady was seen at the mere in great trouble.

A few men at the nearby Cock Inn were talking about the haunted mere. One was dared to visit the pool for five shillings. As he approached it he heard a woman's cries and found a man trying to drown her. He shouted, 'Come, Dick, Jack, Tom, here is the rogue we are wanting!' The would-be murderer fled and the distressed woman was taken to the inn. She had been seduced by her attacker, and he had taken her to the pool to murder her. In 1679 a woman peddler was murdered and dumped in Black Mere by a serial killer from Leek. Andrew Sympson had already killed one person and assaulted another before he killed the peddler. He worked at the Red Lion Inn in Leek.



In September 1677 a countryman came to the inn, went into town and sold some corn for £3.00. Andrew saw the money so he followed the countryman on to the moors where he stole the money, bound his hands and feet and left him alone all night. In the morning the victim was found and lived to tell the tale. Six months later a wealthy young man arrived at the inn travelling to Nantwich on foot, at night asking for directions. Andrew volunteered to accompany him for a mile or two. They set off the next day and Andrew killed and robbed him. The following May the peddler came to Leek with her wares and she took some money in town. She then left for Bakewell, passing Black Mere. Andrew followed her and at the mere he strangled her and took her money and wares, throwing her into the mere. He hid the stash in a haymow and mentioned to a maid he would give her some lace. He was slow to fulfil this promise so she followed him to the haymow and saw the lace. Her boss went to the haymow to discover the loot, and Andrew was arrested and confessed to the three cases.

UPIA Investigation:

Following many reports of strange events at the Mermaid pool, The UPIA decided to have a closer look at the case, with the assistance of the Stoke Sentinel newspaper. Legends are very difficult to substantiate, but any myth, legend or folklore is likely to have some truth, even if it is misconceived. We began general research of the site and attempted to glean as much information about what has been reported over the years. The difficulty here is that some of these reports date back ten centuries. They are well-known to local people and there are many different versions of events.

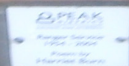
This aside, we received a dozen calls telling of happenings at the site and from witnesses who have dived the site, and ended speculation of it having no bottom. In fact it is only 6ft deep at its lowest point. I have witnessed animals drinking from the pool, and due to a force 9 gale, some of the reports were confirmed. Mostly the site is in the middle of nowhere on the peaks, giving an uneasy feeling in certain conditions. Normal procedures at the site confirmed nothing of consequence. EMF, Negative Ion, Temperature, magnetic fields etc all remained normal, Photographs showed normal appearances, other than rain. Environmental and water samples collected at the site were sent for analysis and offered no notable differences than that of normal.

It is in a well known geologically flawed area, giving credence to balls of light reported around the locations area. It is also possible that Mermaid Pool produces luminous marsh gas: rare but eerie phenomena known as Will-o'-the-Wisps. This might be the origin of the mermaid legend: a ghostly light hovering over the pool, thought to be a spectral water nymph by mystified night-time travellers. If luminous marsh gas is responsible for the mermaid legend, then the time to see her would be at night after a period of high wind and heavy rainfall when the usually still waters have been disturbed. In my opinion folklore has played its part in the legend of Mermaid pool. The Staffordshire Moorlands is an area with a lot of legends and myths attached to it. Centuries ago, it was a fairly wild and remotely populated area, and most people scattered about the plains at that time were simple-minded, uneducated folk. It would be very easy to imagine seeing something on a stormy, foggy night, and that seems to be the setting for many of these myths.



This tale is that, a tale, anything other is misconception by the witness, caused by pre-emptive knowledge and the environmental conditions.

IN THE SUMMER AT MERMAID POOL
AS THE GRASS GROWS ALL AROUND
I THINK I SOMETIMES HEAR HER SING
FOR THE MERMAID'S HOME I'VE FOUND



Location:

From Leek, follow the A53 towards Buxton, turn right at the Moss Rose Inn and through the village of Thorncliff; the Mermaid Inn is on the right side of the road. OS Landranger Map 119, grid reference 036604. Black Mere Pool is beside the road, to the left, around half a kilometre further on.

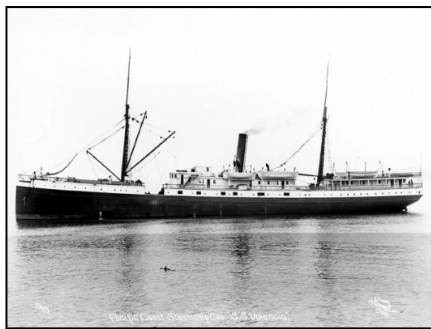
The Top 10 Ghost Ships of the World

Ghost ships, or phantom ships, make up a big part of the seafaring lore that has been passed down by sailors and fisherman throughout the years. The ships are said to be spectral apparitions that materialise on the horizon before quickly disappearing, and they are believed to be a sign of bad things to come. The term is also used to describe abandoned vessels that are found adrift with no crew or passengers, often under frightening and mysterious circumstances. Whether real stories of these derelict ships or legends about phantom craft trawling the seas, the following are the ten most famous ghost ships that continue to provoke speculation and mystery in the nautical world.

10. The Caleuche : One of the most well known legends of the Chilota mythology of southern Chile describes the Caleuche, a ghost ship that appears every night near the island of Chiloe. According to local legend, the ship is a kind of conscious being that sails the waters around the area, carrying with it the spirits of all the people who have drowned at sea. When spotted, the Caleuche is said to be strikingly beautiful and bright, and is always accompanied by the sounds of party music and people laughing. After appearing for a few moments, the ship is then said to disappear or submerge itself under the water. According to Chilota mythology, the spirits of the drowned are summoned to the ship by the Sirena Chilota, the Pincoya, and the Picoy, three Chilota "water spirits" who resemble mermaids. Once aboard the phantom ship, the drowned are said to be able to resume their life as it was before they died.



9. The SS Valencia : The SS Valencia was steamer ship that sank off the coast of Vancouver, British Columbia in 1906. The ship had encountered bad weather near Cape Mendocino, and after drifting off course, struck a reef and began taking on water. The crew quickly began lowering lifeboats holding the ship's 108 passengers into the water, but several of these capsized, and one simply disappeared. The Valencia eventually sank, and only 37 of the roughly 180 people on board survived. Five months later, a fisherman claimed he had found a life raft with 8 skeletons in it in a nearby cave. A search was launched, but it found nothing. Thanks to its dramatic end, the Valencia eventually became the source of numerous ghost ship stories. Sailors would often claim they could see the specter of the steamer drifting near the reef in Pachena Point, and to this day the ship is the source of frequent wild theories and ghost ship sightings. In a bizarre twist, 27 years after the sinking of the Valencia, one of its life rafts was found floating peacefully in nearby Barkley Sound. The "ghost raft" was said to be in remarkable condition, and even still had most of its original coat of paint.



8. The Ourang Medan : The story of the Ourang Medan begins in 1947, when two American ships received a distress call while navigating the Strait of Malacca, off the coast of Malaysia. The caller identified himself as a member of the crew of the Ourang Medan, a Dutch vessel, and supposedly claimed that the ship's captain and crew were all dead or dying. The messages became jumbled and bizarre before trailing off and ending with the words: "I die." The ships quickly raced to the scene to help. When they arrived, they found that the Ourang Medan was undamaged, but that the entire crew—even the ship's dog—was dead, their bodies and faces locked in terrified poses and expressions, and many pointing at something that was not there. Before the rescuers could investigate further, the ship mysteriously caught on fire, and they had to evacuate. Soon after, the Ourang Medan is said to have exploded and then sank. While the details and the overall veracity of the Ourang Medan story are still widely debated, there have been a number of theories proposed about what might have caused the death of the crew.

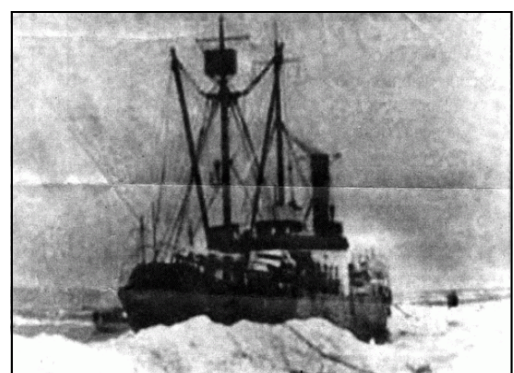


The most popular of these is that the ship was illegally transporting nitroglycerin or some kind of illegal nerve agent, which was not properly secured and seeped out into the air. Others, meanwhile, have claimed the ship was a victim of a UFO attack or some other kind of paranormal event.



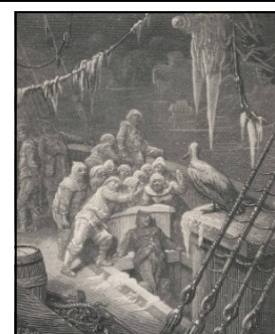
7. The Carroll A. Deering : Perhaps the most famous ghost ship of the Eastern Seaboard is the Carroll A. Deering, a schooner that ran aground near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 1921. The ship had just returned from a commercial voyage to deliver coal in South America, and had last been spotted just south of Hatteras by a lightship near Cape Lookout. It ran aground in the notorious Diamond Shoals, an area famous for causing shipwrecks, and sat there for several days before any help was able to reach it. When they did arrive, the Coast Guard found that the ship was completely abandoned. The navigation equipment and logbook were missing, as were the two lifeboats, but otherwise there were no signs of any kind of foul play. A massive investigation by the U.S. government followed, which discovered that several other ships had disappeared under mysterious circumstances around the same time. Several theories were eventually put forth, the most popular being that the ship fell victim to pirates or rumrunners. Others suggested that mutiny might have been the cause, as the Deering's first mate was known to bear some animosity toward its Captain, but no definitive proof has even been discovered. The mystery surrounding the ghost ship has encouraged wild speculation, and many have argued that paranormal activity might have been responsible, citing the ship's passage through the infamous Bermuda triangle as proof that some kind of otherworldly phenomena might be to blame.

6. The Baychimo : One of the most amazing cases of a real-life ghost ship concerns the Baychimo, a cargo steamer that was abandoned and left to drift the seas near Alaska for nearly forty years. The ship was owned by the Hudson Bay Company, and was launched in the early 1920s and used to trade pelts and furs with the Inuit in northern Canada. But in 1931, the Baychimo became trapped in pack ice near Alaska, and after many attempts to break it free, its crew were eventually airlifted out of the area to safety. After a heavy blizzard, the ship managed to break free of the ice, but it was badly damaged and was abandoned by the Hudson Bay Company, who assumed it would not last the winter. Amazingly, the Baychimo managed to stay afloat, and for the next 38 years, it remained adrift in the waters off Alaska. The ship became something of a local legend, and was frequently sighted aimlessly floating near the frozen ice packs by Eskimos and other vessels. It was boarded several times, but weather conditions always made salvaging it nearly impossible. The Baychimo was last sighted in 1969, again frozen in the ice off of Alaska, but it has since disappeared. The ship is believed to have sunk in the intervening years, but recently a number of expeditions have been launched in search of now nearly 80-year-old ghost ship.



5. The Octavius : Although it is now considered more legend than anything, the story of the Octavius remains one of the most famous of all ghost ship stories. The tale dates back to 1775, when it is said that a whaling ship called the Herald stumbled across the Octavius floating aimlessly off the coast of Greenland. Crewmembers from the Herald boarded the Octavius, where they discovered the bodies of the crew and passengers all frozen solid by the arctic cold. Most notably, the crew found the ship's captain still sitting at his desk, midway through finishing a log entry from 1762, which meant the Octavius had been adrift for 13 years.

According to the legend, it was eventually discovered that the captain had gambled on making a quick return to England from the Orient via the Northwest Passage, but that the ship had become trapped in the ice. If true, this would mean the Octavius had completed its passage to the Atlantic as a ghost ship, its crew and captain long dead from exposure to the elements.



4. The Joyita : The Joyita was a fishing and charter boat that was found abandoned in the South Pacific in 1955. The ship, along with its 25 passengers and crew, were en route to the Tokelau Islands when something happened, and it was not until hours later that the Joyita was reported overdue and a rescue attempt launched. A massive air search was undertaken, but it failed to find the missing ship, and it was not until five weeks later that a merchant ship stumbled upon the Joyita drifting some 600 miles off its original course. There was no sign of any of the passengers, crew, cargo, or life rafts, and the ship was damaged and listing quite badly to one side. Further inspection by authorities found that the ship's radio was tuned to the universal distress signal, and a search of the deck uncovered a doctor's bag and several bloody bandages. None of the crew or passengers was ever seen again, and the mystery of what happened has never been revealed. The most popular theory is that pirates killed the passengers and threw their bodies overboard, but other claims have included everything from mutiny and kidnapping to insurance fraud.

3. The Lady Lovibond : The UK has a long tradition of legends about ghost ships, and of these the Lady Lovibond is perhaps the most famous. As the story goes, the Lady Lovibond's captain, Simon Peel, had just gotten married, and decided to take his ship out on a cruise to celebrate. He brought his new bride along—going against a longstanding seafaring belief that bringing a woman on board a boat is bad luck—and set sail on Feb. 13, 1748. Unfortunately for Peel, his first mate was also in love with his new wife, and after watching the celebrations, the man became overwhelmed with rage and jealousy and intentionally steered the boat into the deadly Goodwind Sands, a sand bar notorious for causing ship wrecks. The Lady Lovibond sank, killing all those aboard. As the legend goes, ever since the wreck the Lady Lovibond can be seen sailing the waters around Kent every 50 years. It was sighted in 1798 by a few different ship captains, as well as in 1848 and 1898, when it supposedly appeared to be so real that some boats, thinking it a vessel in distress, actually sent out life rafts to help it. The Lady Lovibond was again seen in 1948, and while there were no confirmed sightings on its most recent anniversary in 1998, it continues to be one of the most well-known ghost ship legends in Europe.



2. The Mary Celeste : Undoubtedly the most famous of all the real-life ghost ships, the Mary Celeste was a merchant ship that was found derelict and adrift in the Atlantic Ocean in 1872. The ship was in a seaworthy condition, with all its sails still up and a full store of food in its cargo hold, but its life boat, captain's log book and, more importantly, the entire crew, had mysteriously vanished. There was no sign of a struggle, and the personal belongings of the crew and cargo of over 1500 barrels of alcohol were untouched, seemingly ruling out piracy as a possible explanation. In the years since its bizarre discovery, a number of theories have been proposed regarding the possible fate of the Mary Celeste's crew. These include that those aboard were killed by a waterspout, that the crew mutinied, or even that eating flour contaminated with fungus led all the passengers to hallucinate and go mad. The most probable theory remains that a storm or some kind of technical issue led the crew to prematurely abandon the ship in the lifeboat, and that they later died at sea. Still, the mystery surrounding the Mary Celeste has led to much wild speculation, and others have proposed everything from ghosts to sea monsters and alien abduction as possible explanations.



A Brig's Officers Believed to Have Been Murdered at Sea.

From the Boston Post. Feb. 24.

It is now believed that the fine brig Mary Celeste, of about 236 tons, commanded by Capt. Benjamin Briggs, of Marion, Mass., was seized by pirates in the latter part of November, and that, after murdering the Captain, his wife, child, and officers, the vessel was abandoned near the Western Islands, where the miscreants are supposed to have landed. The brig left New-York on the 17th of November for Genoa, with a cargo of alcohol, and is said to have had a crew consisting mostly of foreigners. The theory now is, that some of the men probably obtained access to the cargo, and were thus stimulated to the desperate deed.

The Mary Celeste was fallen in with by the British brig Dei Gratia, Capt. Morehouse, who left New-York about the middle of November. The hull of the Celeste was found in good condition, and safely towed into Gibraltar, where she has since remained. The confusion in which many things were found on board, (including ladies' apparel, &c.) led, with other circumstances, to suspicion of wrong and outrage, which has by no means died out. One of the latest letters from Gibraltar received in Boston says: The Vice-Admiralty Court sat yesterday, and will sit again to-morrow. The cargo of the brig has been claimed, and to-morrow the vessel will be claimed.

The general opinion is that there has been foul play on board, as spots of blood on the blade of a sword, in the cabin, and on the rails, with a sharp cut on the wood, indicate force or violence having been used, but how or by whom is the question. Soon after the vessel was picked up, it was considered possible that a collision might have taken place. Had this been the case, and the brig's officers and crew saved, they would have been lauded long ere this. We trust that if any of New-England's shipmasters can give any information or hint of strange boats or seamen landing at any of the islands during the past ninety days, that they will see the importance thereof.



The Flying Dutchman : In maritime folklore, no ghost ship is more famous than the Flying Dutchman, which has inspired numerous paintings, horror stories, films, and even an opera. The ship was first mentioned in the late 1700s in George Barrington's seafaring book Voyage to Botany Bay, and since then its legend has continued to grow, thanks to numerous sightings of it by fisherman and sailors. As the story goes, the Flying Dutchman was a vessel out of Amsterdam that was captained by a man named Van der Decken. The ship was making its way toward the East Indies when it encountered dangerous weather near the Cape of Good Hope. Determined to make the crossing, Van der Decken supposedly went mad, murdered his first mate, and vowed that he would cross the Cape, "even if God would let me sail to Judgment Day!" Despite his best efforts, the ship sank in the storm, and as the legend goes, Van der Decken and his ghost ship are now cursed to sail the oceans for all eternity. To this day, the Flying Dutchman continues to be one of the most-sighted of all ghost ships, and people from deep-sea fishermen to the Prince of Wales have all claimed to have spotted it making its never-ending voyage across the oceans...

The Reports 'They' Tried To Ban

The Secret UFO REPORTS

The Secret UFO Reports – Project Blue Book: The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects” is a 184 page book written originally by the former Head of the Air Force Project Blue Book and contains a huge amount of fascinating ‘inside’ information which would be of huge interest to any UFO

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Eternally doomed to sail the seas...

BY TINK HARRIS.

The Legend of The Flying Dutchman is said to have started in 1641 when a Dutch ship sank during its voyage home to Holland, just off the coast of the Cape of Good Hope on the tip of Africa.

Captain Van Der Decken - meaning 'of the decks', was extremely pleased as the trip to the Far East had been an excellent success and he and his crew were finally homebound. As the ship approached the tip of Africa, Captain Van Der Decken was considering making a suggestion to his employers, the Dutch East India Company, for he and his crew to start a settlement at the Cape to provide a welcome refuge to ships at sea in the future. The Captain was so deep in these thoughts, he failed to see the dark clouds looming ahead and it was only the look-outs screams of terror that shook him from these thoughts and only then did the Captain realize that they had sailed straight into a fierce storm. The Captain and his crew battled the storm for several tiresome hours; eventually they believed they were going to make it through, until they heard a sickening crunch. The ship had sailed straight into rocks and began to sink, The Captain knew that death was fast approaching both him and his loyal crew but he was not yet ready for such an untimely death and screamed out 'I WILL round this Cape even if I have to keep sailing until Doomsday'.

But was that the way it happened?

Other Legends contain The Ships same trial of battling the rough seas in gales but tell of a drunken, power mad or just down-right insane captain, ignoring his Crew's pleas to turn the ship around and change course and continuing into peril singing obscene songs loudly only to disappear into his cabin shortly after to smoke his pipe and drink more ale, swearing the legendary oath as he went. Eventually of course this leads to mutiny and the Crew attempted to take over the helm, fearing for their lives. The drunken Captain is said to have then shot the leader of the rebellion and cast him overboard but no sooner had the body hit the rough waters below, the clouds parted and a shadowy figure appeared on the quarterdeck telling The Captain 'You are a stubborn man' to which The Captain responded with obscene language and claims of 'never asking for safe passage' and concluding with 'I never asking for anything, so clear off before I shoot you.'



The Shadowy figure was not fazed by such threats and remained motionless causing The Captain to raise his pistol, but on attempting to fire the pistol, it exploded in his hand and at this the shadowy figure spoke again,

this time cursing the captain that as a result of his actions he was thereby cursed to sail the seas for all eternity with a crew of dead men, never to port, never to know a moments peace and bringing death to all who saw them, concluding 'Gall shall be your drink and red hot iron your meat' to which the wreckless Captain responded 'Amen to that!'

And so it goes...

The residents of Cape Good Hope say if a storm is brewing out to sea, if you look into the eye of the storm you can still see the ship and its crew, the captain of which now nicknamed The Flying Dutchman. Some sailors say that the Legendary Dutchman and his ship lead others onto rocks and hidden reefs, others tell of how the ship pulls alongside others and send letters home aboard, which when opened and read, cause them to flounder. Many people claim to have seen the Flying Dutchman himself, pleading mercy to the heavens at last, his skeletal crew grinning miserably as they continue the eternal voyage and many just claim to have seen the ship, sailing just off the port. These include: the crew of a German Submarine boat during World War Two and holiday makers. One of the most historical sightings, however, was that of a young midshipman who later became King George V. On the 11th July 1881, a fleet of Royal Navy ships, headed by Prince Louis of Battenberg rounded the tip of Africa and was confronted by The Flying Dutchman, but seen by only three of the ships, The Cleopatra, The Tourmaline and The Bacchante. The Midshipman of The Bacchante (later to become King George V) recorded that the lookout and the officer of the watch had seen the Flying Dutchman, and it is recorded that at least thirteen crewmen in total witnessed the sight. King George V used these words to describe the ship:

"A strange red light as of a phantom ship all aglow, in the midst of which light the mast, spars and sails of a brig 200 yards distant stood out in strong relief"

Unfortunately for the look-out who saw the Dutchman, he died seven hours after the sighting on the same trip, he accidentally fell from the mast, the fall killed him. Fortunately for the Royal Family the young midshipman survived the curse. There are many different versions of the Tale of the Legendary Flying Dutchman. The earliest stories about a wandering ghost ship, dating from the Middle Ages, set the action in the North Sea. Most often, the captain is said to be responsible for the ship's fate, either because he gambles with the Devil or because he makes a rash oath as the ship begins to sink during a storm. The captain is given different names in different versions of the tale, including Van Der Decken, Ramhout van Dam, and Falkenburg. Some say that "Flying Dutchman" was the captain's nickname rather than the name of the ship but no-one really knows just what happened to the unfortunate ship or its devoted crew and Captain.

So, just how many people have seen the Cursed Dutchman still battling the storm? How many survived to tell the tale?

Is Claws on the prowl again?

March 6th 2010.

HE has stalked Suffolk for years, creeping through the county's heaths and woodland on the hunt for prey. Sightings of the county's very own big cat - nicknamed Claws - have been numerous and date back as far as 1996 when startled residents in Ipswich's Foxhall Road watched as a panther-like beast weaved through the undergrowth. And now it seems as though the secretive creature is on the prowl once again. Taxi driver Paul Smy was so amazed when he saw a big cat crossing a field, he brought traffic to a standstill. Mr. Smy believes he saw a large cat-like animal crossing a field at Kirton as he pulled up at the junction of Park Lane and Bucklesham Road. "I looked across the field ahead and couldn't believe what I was seeing," said Mr Smy, of Langer Road, Felixstowe.

"It was about a quarter of a mile away yet it looked really big - not a domestic cat at all because you wouldn't be able to see it from that sort of range.

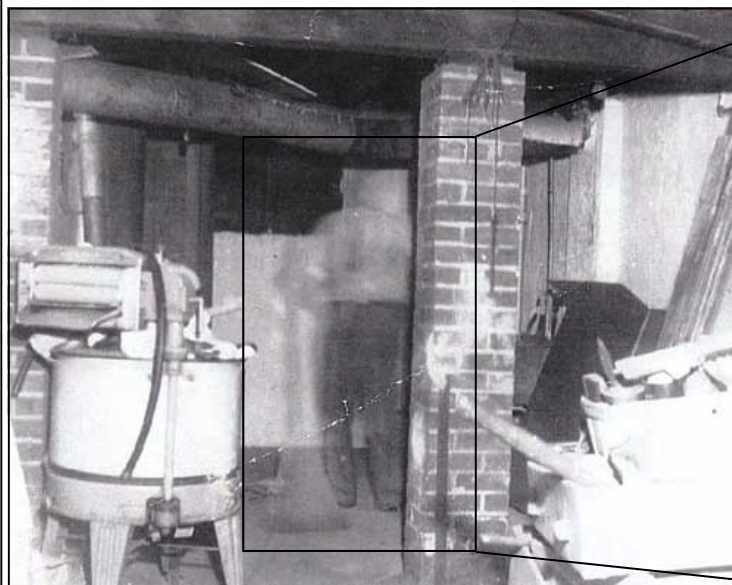
"I sat there watching it and a woman in a car on the school run behind beeped her horn because she obviously couldn't make out why I wasn't moving. "I got out and pointed the big cat out to her and we both watched it together as it made its way across the field. "It was just moving slowly without a care in the world." Mr. Smy, an independent taxi driver who runs Paul's Travel, lived in Africa for several years and believed the . big cat was a panther. "I have seen lions and tigers and leopards at close quarters. I would say this animal was about the size of a leopard," he said. "My worry is if it is a panther there are sheep in some of the fields around here and they could be at risk." Over the past decade there have been numerous reports of large cat-like beasts with some people informing the police. Creatures have been seen near Hadleigh, running across the A12 at Holton St Mary, also at Brandon, Debach, and outskirts of Ipswich.

Paranormal Investigators Receive A Creepy Picture

By Javier Ortega on February 5, 2010.

Photograph supposedly shows spirit of deceased man. Matthew Didier and Sue St. Clair's paranormal blog was sent a chilling image. As the story goes, a Dr. Kimberly Molto sent the paranormal duo an image in which she believes her dead husband appears. Dr. Molto's husband had died in their basement of a massive coronary years before the picture was taken.

As always, ghostly images should be carefully analysed and taken with a grain of salt. All we know about this is the doctor's story and a submitted blurred image. Interesting picture nonetheless.



This photo was shared with us over the Christmas holidays by Dr Kimberly Molto a research scientist specialising in neurobiology in Ontario. The photo was taken by a widow in 1938 who identifies the figure seen in the photo as her deceased husband. The photo was taken (according to his widow) several years after he died of a massive coronary in the basement that he had been renovating. Please note that I cropped the photo during the scanning purpose to center the image. This is one of those photos where you either believe the photographer's information or you don't. I find it to be a very interesting photograph!

Phil Bordley of the UPIA conducted some analysis of the photo. The contrast was adjusted and enlarged. There does seem to be pixelisation in the alleged apparition that isn't evident in any other part of the photo. Even ignoring the inconvenient straight lines. If this photograph was taken in 1938, then the likelihood of photoshop software manipulation is impossible, however, I'm sure long exposures were around. This photograph of an alleged apparition remain inconclusive...

The World Newser

It's Raining Fish -- Hallelujah!

March 2nd 2010.

We've all heard of the expression, "It's raining cats and dogs." Some of us remember the Weather Girls' hit "It's Raining Men." Now, one Australian town has seen its first downpour of fish. It's raining fish in Lajamanu. The Daily Mail reports that small white fish rained down on the town in the Northern Territory of Australia. And some of the fish were still alive! Weather around the world has been anything but usual lately.

From the earthquake in Chile to the extreme snowstorms on the East Coast of the United States, there's no telling what will come from the earth ... or the sky. Australia's fish rain is much like the infamous frog scene from Paul Anderson's film "Magnolia" come true. Scientists and meteorologists say that such an event is possible. A tornado could have sucked up the fish with the water and then dropped them hundreds of miles away.





Medium called in to contact Carlisle's Botcherby shop 'ghost'.

By Linzi Watson.

Carlisle off-licence's unwanted 'spirit' scares store staff. A ghost buster is being drafted in to solve the mystery of a spooky 'spirit' at a Carlisle off-licence. The Botcherby 'ghost' – captured on a CCTV camera outside Simply Food & Drinks – is causing a stir around the world and shop bosses are drafting in a medium.



Since appearing on the News & Star website, 5,000 people have downloaded the mysterious recording of the ghost outside the Durrant Hill Road shop. Images of the apparition have also been picked up by Romanian, Swedish and Japanese news websites. The strange scenes were captured by bemused store staff Trish Nolan and Sonya Hird when the spirit appeared to drift in and out of the shop almost 10 times in one hour last week. Manager Sue McKie, told the News & Star that the ghostly goings on continued into the weekend. The 'ghost' appears as strange white mist on CCTV screens showing the outside of the store. It moves around the area before disappearing.

Mrs McKie said: "It was happening again over the weekend. I don't believe in ghosts but I can't explain what is happening. There have been some very strange things going on." She added that the company bosses are arranging for a medium to visit the shop and hopefully shed light on the mystery. She said: "This has come from head office. "Staff are a bit spooked and they want to get to the bottom of it and hopefully put their minds at rest. "We have six cameras in the store and they have been randomly switching off, but the date and time have remained on the screen. "The camera outside the store also appears to show a light come on inside the shop late at night. "But at this time the light would have been off, they are all on a timer, and the shutters down." She added that the cameras have been cleaned so a mark on the lens can't be to blame. Having sifted through all the footage Mrs McKie noted 14 'ghostly' appearances on Saturday and seven on Sunday. As well as grasping attention around the world, the Botcherby 'ghost' has captured the minds of local people. One theory says that the spook has been disturbed by workmen renovating a flat across the road, which was also said to have been haunted.

this is hull and east riding.co.uk
At the heart of all things local

Ghost experts' anger at iPhone prank.

Friday, March 5th 29010.

Paranormal investigators have condemned a prank image of a ghost taken at an East Riding school. The Mail passed on a photograph of a "ghost" to the Hull Paranormal Ghost Society last month. The snap was sent in by John Fores who was employed by Stoneledge to carry out demolition work at Anlaby Primary School in First Lane. It shows what appears to be a small boy on the old site of the boy's toilet block at the school. Although Mr Fores was adamant the photograph was not a fake, it has since been revealed that one of his colleagues must have played a prank on him. Rob Taylor, president and founder of the Hull Paranormal Ghost Society, said: "After being asked to conclude the image, our results conclude that the image is fake. "The boy image can be used in an Apple i-Phone application called "Ghost Capture", recently released, letting people make their own ghostly pictures." Mr Taylor is concerned applications like this could cause problems to the society, which takes pride as paranormal investigators to bring evidence and documentation of any paranormal activity. Mr Taylor said: "We ask with respect for people to try and understand the seriousness and time consumption relating to paranormal investigation work." The Mail approached photographer Mr Fores about the picture. He believes he might have been set up by a colleague. Mr Fores said: "I am annoyed. During the demolition work there were a few of us swapping pictures of the site as we were putting together a portfolio of the work. "One of them must have blue-toothed me that image, which I didn't notice until they were up on the computer. I thought it was genuine."

UPIA had concluded the same. The fake photograph was featured in last months Phenomena Magazine.



Is this a Chupacabra?

March 06, 2010.

By Christopher Francis.

Is it a sick animal? Or is it a legendary beast blamed for sucking the life out of goats?



Animal experts in Oklahoma are caring for a hairless, wrinkled, dark-complexioned creature discovered roaming around before it was caught and taken to an animal rescue facility.

Some in the area claim it's a chupacabra, an often-blamed, never-verified animal that drinks the blood of goats. Chupacabra sightings are especially common in south Texas along the border with Mexico. But researchers have attributed those sightings to coyotes or wolves.

An expert at the Wild Heart Ranch, where the animal is being cared for, said at first she thought it was a baby wallaby. But then she realized it was actually a raccoon.

Yes, a raccoon, with a very bad case of mange. The worker says the raccoon will grow her hair back within six months, ending any confusion with the notorious goat-sucker. But don't expect the legend to end.



The photo above is of a healthy raccoon.

KENS-TV contributed to this report.

Spiritualist not welcome at Norwich church.

By Peter Walsh.

A medium has been forced to try and find another venue for a forthcoming show after being refused permission to hold the event at a Norwich church hall - despite having booked the same venue last year.



Dominic Zenden, 47, from Old Catton, who has been a spiritualist medium for more than 25 years and has published books on the paranormal, had been hoping to hold an spiritualist evening at Christ Church hall on Magdalen Road. But Mr Zenden has been told he cannot hold the event, which was due to take place at the hall early next month, and must now look for a new venue. He said: "I rang up and asked if I could book the room for an evening. Everything was fine until I said I was a psychic medium. They said sorry, you can't use the room because you're a spiritualist." Mr. Zenden, who has just finished working on a project with popular ghost-hunter Derek Acorah, said he was surprised at being refused permission because he had used the same venue for a show there last year. He said: "I'm surprised and feel a little bit upset. I've worked in lots of venues in Norwich over the years and never had any problems with anyone discriminating against me for being a medium. "I can understand people's viewpoints but to stop someone using a hall because of their beliefs seems a little antiquated. The whole idea of a community hall is that you offer a wide range of services. Last time we had about 60 people turn up." The Reverend Keith Crocker, vicar of Christ Church, said the church council had drawn up a list of terms and conditions for events which could be put on at religious venues. He said: "It's very broad and we accept a wide cross section of the community to use the church as long as they are not doing anything against the Christian faith. We would regard a spiritualist medium as being against the Christian faith." With the church unlikely to have a change of heart, Mr. Zenden will now have to find someone else willing to host the event which he hopes will still take place in the first week of April. He said: "If anyone has a hall they would like to offer or would like me to come and perform I would be more than happy to talk to them."

MAPIT had considered a suitable location for Mr. Zenden.

EDINBURGH

PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
However, I'm sure he would much prefer a different venue.

News...



NEWS.scotsman.com

Ghouls stole my tools so I'm too spooked to work alone.

Published March 5th 2010.

By Catherine Salmond.

They've been left quivering in their work boots because of things going bump in the night. Workers transforming a former West End church into a pub have even refused to work nightshifts, because they're too scared of the ghosts they fear linger there.



Tools have gone missing and spine-tingling moving shadows have been spotted at the Rutland Place building, all proving too much for tradesmen to bear. Foreman Ross McMillan, 29, said: "People were really troubled about being here at night. On some occasions, some of the guys said they wouldn't come in. "It's been really quite scary." Teams of workmen have been transforming the A-listed building for nearly a year, ahead of its opening this month as a three-story bar and entertainment venture. The venue was originally a church, but eventually became home to the Stanley Berkeley Casino, which has been closed for around five years. To the left is a photograph of the Foreman Ross McMillan.

Mr McMillan said: "When we arrived at the site it was quite a mess, with water dripping from the ceilings. "We've been seeing things ever since, particularly in the morning when shadows just move for no reason. "On night shifts, when there were just a few of us, we would hear walking noises from the upper floors – even though we knew nobody was up there." The foreman said he once searched for hours looking for a drill he had left in a tool store that morning, only to eventually find it on another floor of the building. To photograph to the right is The Rutland Place church.



He said: "It was in January, and I specifically remember where I left it. Nobody had used it as we all have our own tools. "I thought there was something dodgy going on, wondering if it was a theft to blame or a ghost." Most of the ghostly goings-on have taken place in the basement of the building in what has become a cloakroom, along with toilets and staff quarters. A stone staircase leading to the area – near to the main entrance to the building – has been the location for many unexplained shadow sightings, making their way up the passageway when people get near. General manager Innes Wishart, 31, said: "There have been occasions when there have been two or three workers on at night, working on different floors, yet things have moved and they cannot find them. "At the start, I was quite sceptical, but then some of the staff came to me refusing to work overnight because of this. They basically said they were not comfortable to work here so we had to double up the teams." The church dates back to 1843 when it was constructed as St Thomas's Episcopal Church. It was rebuilt on Glasgow Road, Corstorphine, in 1938 – but perhaps left a few spirits behind.

Definitive Proof of a UFO, taken in China.

By Michael Cohen.



What is being hailed as the clearest ever UFO footage (view below) and final and definitive proof of alien visitation to planet earth has been filmed in China in the last fortnight. On January 28 at 8.40am multiple witnesses saw a giant pyramid shaped UFO briefly hover above the city of Xi'an. The UFO was seen for no more than two minutes and one witness, Mr Yu managed to film around 15 seconds of footage of this historic event. Mr. Yu described the UFO as being covered in uneven patterns and shapes as well as having glowing purple light coming out of its underside. Another smaller UFO was seen at one stage move in the vicinity of the larger craft.

UNIDENTIFIED SUBMERSIBLE OBJECTS

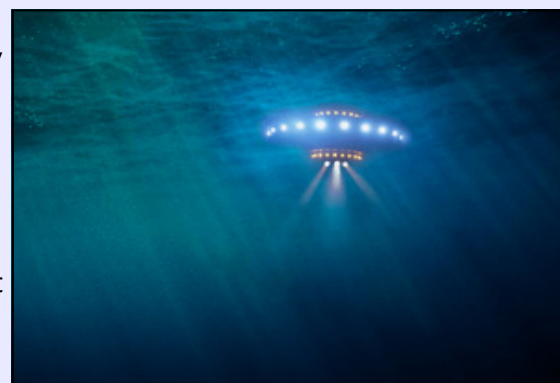
USOs

BY BILLY BOOTH

As we search the mysteries of UFOs, an area that is often overlooked is that of UFOs entering and emerging from water. Often tagged "USOs," these objects have the capability of manoeuvring in, through, and out of the water into open spaces. The proper term for this phenomena is "Unidentified Submersible Objects." To really investigate this subject, we must separate UFOs seen flying over or near lakes and oceans with those which have been reported to enter or emerge from water. This is not to say that a UFO reported over water cannot navigate lakes and oceans, but there may be special properties to those which have reportedly entered or exited the lakes and seas of our world. Another fact that we should consider is that although the Earth's surface is approximately 75% water, these areas are not nearly as closely monitored as our lands, which of course, contain the vast majority of our populace. It is very possible, even probable, that UFOs navigating our oceans and lakes are very rarely witnessed by human eyes.

UFO AND WATER

There have been many reports of UFOs over water, and a much smaller amount of reports of UFOs navigating our lakes and oceans. The question must be asked: "Why do UFOs enter our waters?" This question can only be answered with several other questions. Do alien beings have a personal need of water? Do alien craft have a use for water? Do aliens have underground bases in our oceans? From the preponderance of reports, all three of these questions can be answered with a big "Yes." There have been multiple reports of aliens either asking for water for either themselves or for their craft. And reports of UFOs staying underwater for several days without emerging must indicate that they have somewhere to anchor their craft beneath the surface, or have bases under the sea. These theories bring us to the gist of this article, where I shall bring to light some of the most notable, best documented cases of these UFO underwater events.



SOUTH OF MALTA - 1947

In 1947, about 20 miles south of Malta, fishermen were at work raising and lowering their nets in hope of a big catch. Suddenly they saw an unusual object not too far from their boat. Frightened by the strange object, the fishermen quickly yanked their nets from the sea, fired up their boat, and put distance between themselves and the unknown craft. Suddenly, a bright light lit up the area around the craft. Small beings could be seen running across the deck of the object. Visible to the fishermen was some type of apparatus around the waist of the beings. Later after initial reports of the incident were revealed, one of the witnesses claimed that the beings were about the size of a 10-year-old boy. He could see them enter the craft, which soon submerged, never to be seen again.

GOLFO NUEVO - ARGENTINA - 1960

In a report released through the History Channel, in 1960, the Argentinean Navy encountered two unknown submerged objects in the "New Gulf," or Golfo Nuevo. This event occurred about 650 miles south of Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was initially thought that the objects were submarines, but this theory was soon dismissed, as the objects appeared to break into smaller pieces, and fly out of the ocean. According to reports by Philip Mantle, these pieces disappeared as they left the water. Of course, skeptics believe that all that was seen were submarines firing torpedoes, but it was revealed that in 1960, the firing of six or more torpedoes at one time was not possible.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON - 1966

In 1966, the USS Tiru SS-416 left Pearl Harbour bound for Seattle, Washington, during the Rose Festival. The submarine was set at a pier near downtown Seattle, and toured by thousands of curious individuals. Unknown at this time was that the sub's trip to Seattle had been far from routine. While cruising on the water's surface one late afternoon, the port lookout reported a strange object at a range of 2 miles bearing 315 degrees relative. The port lookout referred his contact to the starboard and OOD (Object Oriented Design) lookouts. The three lookouts, using binoculars, were shocked to see a metallic craft, larger than a football field, drop from the clouds into the ocean. It was reported to tumble end over end, hit the water, and disappear among the water geysers and ocean. When starboard and OOD lookouts confirmed what they had seen, the port lookout related that initially he had seen the object go from the water up into the clouds. All three lookouts would soon see the object leave the ocean and join the clouds. During the same time period, radar reported a contact at the same range and bearing. Sonar was picking up strange echoes. The Captain was called to the bridge. The Captain, along with the chief Quartermaster, arrived within minutes. Almost immediately, the unknown object fell from the clouds into the ocean once again. Soon, however, the Tiru moved out of visual contact with the object.

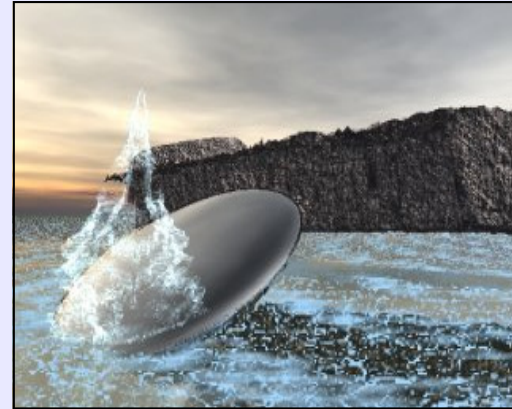
The Captain issued an order to all present: Never discuss what they had seen under any circumstances. The Captain went below and sent a radio message. The witnesses had seen a metallic craft, decked out with machined parts. There appeared to be windows around its circumference. No noise was heard. The object was shaped like a saucer with a bowl inverted in the saucer and it was huge.

SHAG HARBOUR, NOVA SCOTIA - 1967

One of the most well known UFO cases is that of the Shag Harbour Crash of 1967, although it is most difficult to determine if the UFO navigated into the water purposely, or crashed into the waters. However, if later eyewitness testimony can be believed, a second craft entered the waters to aid the first craft. It has been reported that the US Navy monitored the objects for quite some time. This would certainly indicate to me that the first object, possibly in trouble, had used the waters to avoid detection, awaiting aid from the second ship.

COAST OF FLORIDA - 1968

In 1968, a Panamax bulk carrier, The Grichuna, under the Swiss flag, was off the coast of Florida. It was loaded with coal, and in route to Japan. The reporter of this incident was a second officer, who was on night watch from 00:00 to 04:00 hours. The Grichuna was in good weather, and cruising at about 15 knots when our witness, who was watching the lights of Palm Beach, saw lights under the water's surface. The lights were about 10-15 meters deep, and 30-40 meters distant. He could make out an object which looked like a plane without wings or a tail. He could also see windows, from which light glowed. He thought there were 10-12 windows. The USO was crossing the path of the Grichuna, and moving about twice her speed, it soon was under the ship's bow. The second officer estimated the length of the object at 9 meters. Another seaman on the bridge admitted to seeing something under the water, but was not sure what it was. The second officer was experienced with many years at sea. He had seen about everything there was to see on the ocean, but this time he was baffled. His testimony is definite proof of the existence of USOs.



BUFF LEDGE, VIRGINIA - 1968

Another case of UFOs entering the water is that of the Buff Ledge Encounter. In 1968, Buff Ledge, a girls' summer camp in Virginia, would be visited by four UFOs which manoeuvred in and out of the waters of Lake Champlain. Michael Lapp, a sixteen-year-old maintenance man, and 19-year-old water ski instructor Janet Cornell were relaxing on a boat dock on a quite afternoon, as most of the camp inhabitants were away at a swim meet. Late afternoon, they were surprised to see a bright light approaching the lake. The object appeared to be a large disc. Soon, three smaller objects fell from the larger craft. These three craft began to move over the lake, appearing to put on an air show. Soon, the mother ship descended into the water, emerged, and came right at the two friends. The object was so close that two, small beings could be seen through a dome-like, transparent top. The next thing the two friends knew they were waking up, still staring at the object, now in the distance. Michael was trying to get his bearings. He checked on Janet, who seemed to be in a trance. Soon, they heard the welcome sounds of the swim team returning to camp. The mother ship moved from view, disappearing into the sky. It would be ten more years before Michael, plagued by disturbing dreams of being abducted, would call upon the services of the Center for UFO Studies. Investigator Walter Webb took the case, and suggested regressive hypnosis. This procedure brought out the details of an alien abduction. Likewise, Janet would also find that she had been abducted, and subjected to medical tests. Webb would also find other witnesses from the camp that saw strange lights over Lake Champlain the same night of the abductions.

COSTA RICA - 1971

A rare photograph is taken of a gigantic UFO over Lake Cote by a government mapping program in 1971. The photograph clearly shows details of the terrain below, and a silver, disc-shaped object, which appears to be entering the water. American expert analysis deems the photograph authentic, and because the plane was flying at fixed altitude of 10,000 feet, it can be estimated that the UFO was over 600 feet in diameter. See more details of this case at [UFO Photograph, Costa Rica, 1971](#).

SOGNEFJORD, NORWAY - 1972

For two weeks, the Norwegian Navy tracked a USO in the Sognefjord, the world's second longest fjord. The incident was taken so seriously by the government that ships and sub-seeking helicopters were called to find the object. On November 20, the UFO was seen exiting the water, and described as "a massive, silent, cigar-shaped object". One ship actually opened fire on what was considered a hostile craft, but to no avail, as the USO simply dove into the waters. The unknown object also avoided depth-charges. Finally, it was decided to block up the fjord and trap the object, but somehow it slipped away.

MAYAQUEZ, PUERTO RICO - 1977

A USO case that was witnessed by as many as 2,000 people occurred in Mayaquez, Puerto Rico, on September 13, 1977. Eyewitness reports described two, large UFOs, which flew over a Puerto Rican city, and dove into the Atlantic about a mile from shore. The object was seen entering and exiting the ocean multiple times. The UFOs were seen by many people on the shore, and also fishermen at sea. The objects so frightened the witnesses that many felt the end of the world had come. Fishermen, hastily speeding for shore, would not go back to their trade during the sightings.

Mayaguez Police Sergeant Ramon Ramirez observed the objects for a time, and attempted to quiet the fears of the witnesses. He stated that "It was a strange object to them and they didn't know what it was." One of the local fishermen added: "I've been a fisherman for a long time and I've been out on that water for a long time and I've never seen anything like what I saw that night." Asked what he thought the object was, Lopez said: "In my opinion, it was a UFO, a flying saucer."

MILLAZO, ITALY - 1986

In February, 1986, a UFO moving in the water was spotted by one Antonino Abramo, who was fishing alone at night in the Largo di Millazzo (ME). He first noticed an intense, yellow light rising from the sea, and illuminating a large area of the water. The light began to change from yellow to greenish, light blue, and finally white. He estimated the light was several kilometers from his boat. As he watched the light, the sea began to boil, and an unknown, elliptical object exited the sea. Abramo could see a lighted, domed top on the object. A number of small lights of various colours circled the object. Soon, the unknown craft began to rise, and climb into the skies. It stopped momentarily, then sped away. He estimated the entire experience was only about 20 seconds in length.

THE AEGEAN SEA - 1990

An interesting case that seems to substantiate the existence of underwater UFOs comes from Turkey, and includes a rare, underwater photograph of a USO. The event occurred on August 15, 1990, in the Aegean Sea. Erol Erkman and a fellow diver were exactly 57 meters deep in the Saros Bay when they spotted a distant green light. While checking out a sunken ship, Erkman used an underwater Kodak camera to capture the object on film.

INVERMERE, BRITISH COLUMBIA - 1999

Between 4:00 -5:00 PM, on April 17, 1999, an unusual sighting was made by several witnesses who claimed to see a bright, white light exiting the waters in Windermere, Invermere, British Columbia, at Lake Lookout. The weather was clear and sunny, with little to no wind. The waters were calm. One of the three witnesses made the following statement: "Three of us were looking out into the water: it was a quiet peaceful afternoon, when we all noticed a bright, white light emerging from the water. The object was breaking the water surface from the lake, yet wasn't leaving any ripples in the water! - like a piece of wood or a log could." "It showed itself as a sequence of digitized light - the kind that looks like the Knight Rider "kit" car has on the front. Instead, this computerized light was a bright white colouring. It appeared and disappeared, breaking the water surface three times before finally disappearing into the lake. This lasted for approximately 5 minutes. We had binoculars so we were able to see the light up close, and to our amazement it confirmed what we thought we had seen."



VERO BEACH, FLORIDA - 2008



The National UFO Reporting Center has reported the sighting of a UFO over Vero Beach, Florida, that occurred on April 14, 2008. The witness claims that he observed two cigar-shaped, unidentified objects for about three minutes. The objects appeared to be playing as they flew in and out of the water, and across the skies. The objects were first observed just above the horizon, and at times could be seen entering the ocean. Incredibly, these objects would stop in midair, disappear, then reappear in a different place in the sky. The beach was almost vacant at the time, and there were no other witnesses to the objects. The cases presented here are only a small portion of the many cases of reports of unknown flying objects manoeuvring in and out of the waters of the world. There can be little doubt that the navigators of these objects are at home in our lakes and oceans. These craft possess capabilities that no earthly craft can duplicate, being able to go from underwater to flying in our skies with ease. This would indicate an advanced technology.

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Gene Steinberg (Co-Host) Gene Steinberg is an award-winning journalist who first discovered the magic of writing while still a teenager. He edited his own science fiction and New Age fanzine, and began writing a science fiction novel about an Earth man who finds himself in an unknown land faced with life-threatening situations. Over the years, Gene also developed a strong interest in UFOs and other paranormal phenomena, and wrote and edited a number of commentaries on the subject. In fact, during the time he worked as a radio broadcaster, covering a traditional news beat, he was still exploring the paranormal on the side, with the kind indulgence (or benign neglect) of his employers. In 2006, Gene teamed up with noted special effects artist and technology writer David Biedny to create The Paracast, which has become what listeners call "the gold standard" of paranormal radio.



AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM MARCH 14TH 2010. DAVE SADLER, STEVE MERA & PAUL KIMBALL DISCUSS THE WORLD OF THE PARANORMAL.

<http://www.theparacast.com/>

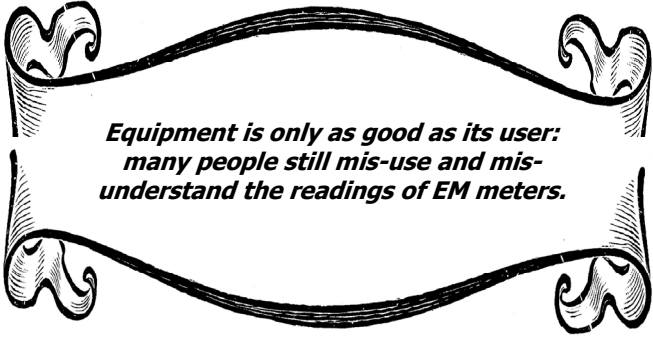


Science, Not Superstition: The Nature of Ghosts

A Review of the Evidence By Paul Lee.

Despite many thousands of reports of apparitions since the beginning of history, the evidence for the paranormal remains very sketchy. It is not too hard to see why this is, and why skeptics remain to be convinced; the main reason is a lack of tangible, tabulated evidence. Ghost stories are almost purely anecdotal, and seem to be very personal experiences. They also mostly seem to focus on trivial, mundane events, which is remarkable when we are often told that ghosts are imprints of behavior, such as violence etc., committed in the past and this somehow becomes imprinted upon the environment. We can only presume that many people have died from the mundane, for instance how many times have you read a ghost story where a figure is seen in the middle of the night, walk across the room to the window and vanish?

We all seem to love a good ghost story, but they are sources of frustration. Very little time has been spent trying to understand the nature of ghosts- why do we see them? and what are they? In an era of dwindling science grants and the lack of objective enthusiasm by scientists (particularly in the field of spontaneous cases in parapsychology), sadly, this is one status quo that will seemingly be maintained. The burden of providing proof lies with the amateur and his trusty range of second-hand or custom-built equipment. The notion that a rich maverick, intent on lading cash to groups to prove that ghosts exist is far-fetched. Instead, whereas funding is available for laboratory based paranormal claims, ESP and the like, paradoxically, we are limited to a growing band of enthusiastic, but mainly clueless "ghost hunters" who see spook chasing as a roller coaster fun ride with no intention of furthering the field and see the events as a lark, an alternative to a night in the pub ... and who constantly call image intensifier equipment "infra red cameras" ... that think that orbs are ghosts, preferring their own limited experience over that of scientists who have spent decades researching optics and cameras and know what they are talking about ... that don't know how to handle EMF meters or interpret the results ... that see faces in walls, orbs etc. and hence are unaware of the concepts of simulacra and Pareidolia ... that think that Ouija Boards and Table Tipping demonstrate proof of communication with the dead (ever heard of the ideomotor effect?) ... that know nothing of digital image artifacts producing shadows that are misinterpreted as phantoms (Brother Michael at Beaulieu Abbey in 2003 for instance) ... that point infra-red laser thermometers at cold spots, not realizing that they are taking readings from the wall behind the spot ... that leave equipment unchecked without taking periodic readings ... and that use blinding white torches at night, which temporarily destroy one's night vision (you should use a red filter over the lens, like astronomers and dark room workers). And I have seen all of these take place on investigations!



*Equipment is only as good as its user:
many people still mis-use and mis-
understand the readings of EM meters.*

....oh, and incidentally, that "anomalous" high EMF reading may have a mundane explanation. As aircraft fly through the atmosphere, they accumulate charge due to friction with the atmosphere. Since the aircraft is in motion, and hence the charge is moving, this constitutes an rudimentary electrical current. And an electric current always has a magnetic field associated with it.

Tantalizing pieces of experimental evidence and observations have given us a few clues, but, to quote one drama serial, "a ghost is a mass of data waiting for a correct interpretation". For the sake of discussion, let us assume that you do believe in ghosts, either by faith, religion or otherwise, or by actually seeing one. You do not need convincing. Now, do ghosts occur "all in the mind" as many critics have cruelly suggested, or do they occur in the environment? Hopefully, in the discussion that follows, you will be intrigued as I am and will hopefully want to learn more of these elusive apparitions.

Those who dismiss ghosts as being a figment of the mind have one compelling piece of evidence on their side: the seeming lack of interplay between spirits and their environment: on the whole, they do not move things around or communicate with witnesses although there are of course exceptions to this. One could easily create a theory that accounts for the movement of objects by psychokinetic abilities on the part of the observer, or poltergeist phenomena but this is hardly satisfactory since, to quote Fortean researchers Janet and Colin Bord excellent maxim, it attempts to explain one mystery by invoking another, an excellent summary of "Occam's Razor" which, simply put, states that one should not overcomplicate possible solutions. Furthermore, ghosts rarely appear on film or videotape; again, there are exceptions to this. Even with infra-red imaging equipment the chances of successfully recording a ghost on film or tape is remote, although the TAPS team do claim some success with thermal imaging equipment.

Of interest are of those cases where, of many people in a group, only a few see the apparition, the others excitedly asking "what do you see?" One may attempt to use 'mass hysteria' or 'mass hallucination' as one possible explanation but for it to be remarkably selective and for people to see the same thing, unprompted by others, is intriguing to say the least. Also, sometimes video/film equipment does record something. I should also point out here that sometimes cameras have picked up images when even humans don't see anything at all, and others times the reverse situation is true. Lest it be thought that scientists are militant in their approach to the unknown, I must point out that this is a fallacy. Many scientists are reluctant to absorb ideas until proof emerges to convince, such as meteorites and dinosaurs. Even today, no-one is sure how anti-depressants or anesthetics work; they simply do, and the proof is there. Quantum physics, especially the horribly clichéd "spooky action at a distance" (or quantum particle entanglement) is another good example and I am sure there must be hundreds of others. No, what science demands is repeatability. A one-off observation is worthless; it could mean anything, and besides, random events do happen in everyday life that look significant, but aren't. These are called coincidences. The scientific methodology's result is a catalogue of explainable, repeatable events. Just image the furor if something as simple as turning on a TV set was not repeatable! But it does happen, it is scientific and it is understood. Be honest and ask yourself how much of the paranormal acts in such a way and you will find out that the anti-science and anti-scientist tirades by psychics etc. are without any basis. Science works by hypothesis, testing, and the comparison of these two data sets. If the two don't match, then the hypothesis is reworked and more testing is done until the two agree: this circular process may be repeated many times. The work is then subjected to peer review in a refereed journal. Then, once it is accepted, we say the theory is consistent with physical observations: many paranormal "findings" are simply reported on the internet or on the television with no independent checking of the facts, so why should we trust them?

What is not true is to say that a scientific theory can be 100% correct; any theory can be supplanted or modified as new advances emerge. Newton's theory of gravity worked for centuries, but it took Einstein's genius to explain the (till then, unexplainable) eccentricity in the orbit of Mercury. Can science ever work in a reverse sense, progressing from observation and testing back to theory? After all, this is what we have with the paranormal world. Yes, in some cases, it does. Remote space probes provide pictures and readings from their sojourns, but without the opportunity of remote experiments "on the spot", we have only our terrestrial knowledge and experience to match with the observations. And here the analogy with the paranormal fails, for much of the world of the weird does not seem to obey the physical world in which we live. What should we do?

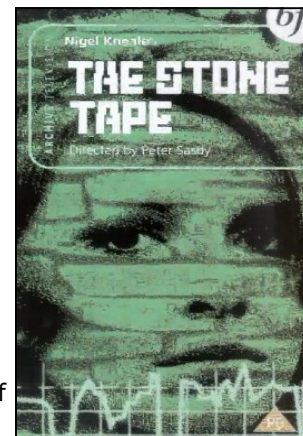
Throw away decades of knowledge and provable theories in science? Or just dismiss ghosts and the like? For some scientists, the latter option is a much easier proposition. Hence the schism between scientists and paranormal enthusiasts.

"The Stone Tape" by Nigel Kneale

The most widely touted theory regarding ghosts is known as "The Stone Tape" theory, made popular by the excellent BBC tv drama production shown in 1972, and written by Nigel Kneale (the creator of "Quatermass" in the 1950s). In this dramatization, a group of scientists realize that the image and sounds of the ghost is stored materially in the fabric of an old room and that people sensitive to the recording can play it back in their heads- a fascinating idea since it presupposes that everyone's reaction to the 'ghost' is different- "like eyesight or hayfever". The production is also noteworthy for predicting the digital revolution many years early. "The Stone Tape" theory relies on no 'external' ghost- everything is perceived in the mind, and nothing can be recorded or analyzed on their equipment.

Such a 'ghost' would follow a predetermined course of action- walking the same path as in life, although how the recording comes to be imprinted on stone or replayed is an interesting question! There exists no theory that can explain such a mechanism, and without anything to actually test, such a theory must be downgraded and renamed to simply "an idea." In the same way, we can label Lethbridge's "Water Memory" 'theory' as an abstract concept with no current way of testing. This explanation does have many parallels with 'real' ghost-stories; the apparition that walk through walls where doors used to be, climb up steps that no longer exist etc. The most spectacular cases of this are at The Treasurer's House in York (where a worker in the basement saw a legion of Roman soldiers, whose legs were cut off at the ankles- the current level of the ground), Westminster Abbey (where a priest is seen walking an inch or two above the ground, marking the settling of the ground since he 'died') and Bell Lane in Enfield, London (where a phantom stagecoach allegedly rushes along - 6 feet above the ground).

But can data be stored in the fabric of a building? The New York Times on-line magazine once recounted how audio experts were trying to uncover the erased 18 1/2 minute segment from one of President Nixon's Watergate tapes. Using digital technology, and a knowledge of the original media, it may be possible to at least partially restore some of the excised material.



Very interesting, but what has this to do with ghosts? Some 40 years ago, a hypothetical theory was developed by a technician by Richard Woodbridge III and reported in "The Proceedings of the I.E.E.E. (the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers" Woodbridge theorized that there were many occasions when sound might innocently get scooped out of the air and preserved. For example, when an ancient potter typically held a flat stick against a rotating pot, he was accidentally (and crudely) recording into the clay the sounds around him. Woodbridge wrote about experiments he performed pulling basic noises off a pot. Another experiment involved setting up a canvas and then talking while making different brush strokes. Woodbridge apparently found the word "Blue" in a blue paint stroke - " as if the artist was talking to himself or to the subject. Parenthetically, the search was long and tedious. The principle, however, was established."



The Prince of Wales pub in Kenfig.

Such "Archaeo-Acoustics" are a source of contentious debate: the popular US TV show "Mythbusters" performed experiments searching for sound recordings in paintings and pottery and reached a contrary (i.e. negative) conclusion in its entertaining experiments. But, if the theory is true, there is an obvious overlap with ghosts: A possible example of such a possible pseudo-tape recording occurred in 1982, when the landlord at the Prince of Wales inn at Kenfig in Mid-Glamorgan (Wales) complained of the sound of organ music and voices. When he had retired for the night. John Marke, an electrical engineer and Allan Jenkins, an industrial chemist, connected electrodes to the wall of the pub after closing time one night. They fed 20,000 volts across the electrodes and locked tape recorders in the room for four hours. Reports in books later described voices (speaking in old Welsh), organ music and a clock ticking (though there was no clock in the room at the time). It was mentioned a few years back that the stones in the wall contain may contain similar substances to those found in modern tape.

One unanswered question remains however; would the sounds have occurred in the room anyway even if the scientists hadn't pumped 20,000 volts into the wall? - in short, had a control experiment been performed?

John Marke and Allan Jenkins prepare their equipment.

This Stone Tape/Kenfig evidence suffered a blow in later years when I learned from Dr.Melvyn Willin (who has a doctorate in Parapsychology and Music and is a member of the Society for Psychical Research) that technicians at the now-defunct BBC Radiophonic Workshop, described the Prince of Wales pub sounds as being akin to distortion and feedback, perhaps caused by the nearby presence of a very large transformer required to create the hefty voltages required. Certainly, having heard extracts from the tape, the sounds resemble flatulent elephants, not clocks ticking etc. ! John Marke said, shortly after the 1982 recordings, that BBC News night, and TV crews from Japan and Canada had filmed the experiments under controlled conditions with "surprising results" (although it is not clear what he means by this). Furthermore, Marke elucidated that he had performed experiments of a similar nature at the Jolly Sailor pub in Porthcawl. If anyone knows the outcome of this experiment, please let me know. Another major problem for the Stone Tape theory is: just where are the data required for playback stored? This poses no problem for buildings, where the fabric remains more-or-less in situ, but what about the reports of phantoms on battlefields, or brand new housing estates? The ground must have been worked thousands of times, hedges and trees uprooted and planted, so where is the "ghost" information stored? Mike White, an ASSAP member suggested that it might actually be recorded in deep lying strata, deep beneath the surface. Of course, this might tie in nicely with Paul Devereux's hypothesis of "Earth Lights" being the product of tectonic plate stresses. And David Taylor, Parasearch chairman, has made the connection between earth tremors in the Dudley area and its population of ghosts. An excellent TV show ("Ghost Hunters- Spectres of the Severn") even made the connection between the ghosts in Gloucestershire (e.g. The Ancient Ram Inn) being linked to its series of local fault lines. This programme has suggested the possible link between high rates of spectral appearances and geological fault lines; the evidence was intriguing, but faulty, since no control of non-fault areas was performed. The idea is that somehow the stresses in the Earth causes bursts of electro-magnetism, and this affects eyewitness perceptions. An acquaintance has also suggested this link, but has suggested that the natural conductivity of the surrounding ground may also play a part in somehow causing phantoms some distance away from an earth tremor or fault line. If a building is constructed on a layer of piezoelectric material, such as quartz, then stresses caused by shifting plates would generate a magnetic field; this is by virtue of the fact that when such materials are compressed, they produce a tiny electrical current, and hence an associated magnetic field.

If this phantom-fault line connection is proven, then the mechanism will still be a mystery: is it simply due to the natural effect of electricity and magnetism on the brain, or some unknown force?



The "Stone Tape" theory does not explain those instances where ghosts communicate with the observer (sometimes being able to understand a foreign language), but one could always explain this as due to telepathy, which, conveniently does not seem to be a quantifiable subject under current understanding of physical laws! Also a mystery are those cases that seem to incorporate a 'sentient' ghost, and in this category one could include Poltergeists, which love to put on a good show for the observers, but only once recording media (video, tape recorders etc.) have been turned off or directed elsewhere. And what about those ghosts which are of non-living entities; aircraft, buses and the like?

One seemingly obligatory feature of paranormal manifestation seems to be a sudden drop in temperature, or a very localized zone of cold air - the so-called "cold spot". Again, this is sometimes real and is measurable on a thermometer, and other time it seems to be a perceived effect. One idea is that the ghost is somehow extracting energy from the air. Alternately, the "cold spot" may not be real and may simply be an artifact of the way the human body reacts to such things, such as shivering uncontrollably when in a state of shock, for instance.

Incidentally, a story I recall from a few years back refers to the fact that one ghost would shift locations to another room if an ionizer was left activated in its original haunted location; indeed, there was even a mention in a Ghost club circular referred to a build-up of static electricity during a vigil. And, a contact on one forum mentioned that: "I once saw a spirit in full manifestation. She was quite see through, her features were clear, she was animated and there was a blue/green aura of mist swirling around her. Once she vaporized she set the smoke alarm off."

An exciting avenue of research came from the late Vic Tandy at Coventry University. He has found that infra-sound (at around 19 Hz) causes the human eye to vibrate almost imperceptibly, but causing a feeling of "being watched" as it causes a distortion in the peripheral vision. You wouldn't feel the vibration (it is so subtle) but it would cause unease, not just in the eye but in the stomach too (19 Hz being close to the natural frequency of the human body, as reinforced by research from NASA). Being below the level of human hearing, such sonic waves would not be audible. Vic discovered the effect on his body when he traced feelings of dread to a faulty desk fan in his lab. Once this fan was repaired, the feeling vanished. He has also discovered one other case of infrasound being the cause of spooky feelings, in an old catacomb. He has also noted the conditions when such "feelings" may occur. The media naturally tried to conclude that this low frequency sonic wave was the cause of all ghost stories, a claim very easy to dispute.

To reiterate; one should always, if possible seek solutions beyond the range of the physical senses. Infra, or ultra sound may explain why animals react in haunted locales. And it is known that doses of carbon monoxide can induce hallucinations. Another compound capable of inducing sensory hallucinations is carbon dioxide; tests with fighter pilots show that a concentration of 5-6% can affect the senses. But then the problem emerges as to how such a large amount of CO₂ can be created: the normal atmospheric concentration is typically much less than 1%. Regarding the equipment based approach to data gathering, attempts to record ghosts on equipment have met with remarkable degrees of success (for want of a better word): they are camera-shy even when cornered! At a lodge in Dudley Castle, near Birmingham, the oppressive nature of the building totally vanished when each room had two people, a video camera and a tape recorder installed!

Considering the difficulty of seeing ghosts, why is it that people almost always see them when they never expect it? For instance, when in a relaxed, or distracted frame of mind, or have just woken up? On vigils, this usually happens when you are changing tapes over or having a tea break. Of course, if the ghost had intelligence, we might say that "it" was being mischievous. But I wonder.... It almost reminds me of the Uncertainty Principle in Quantum Physics: observing the experiment adds energy to the system, altering it slightly, and making it impossible to observe two quantities simultaneous to a given precision (such as momentum and position). It may be similar to going on vigils: by observing, we are blocking what we set out to seek! With the permission of the National Trust, an attempt was made by a party at Dover Castle to switch off the logical, reasoning part of the brain by getting drunk (!) and engaging in a musical jamboree, playing monopoly etc. They also thought that since ghosts never appear where video cameras are, they would place machines in every room and station themselves in a 'nerve centre' hoping for the ghosts to appear in their very lap. This vigil was unsuccessful as far as seeing ghosts was concerned!

Relaxed, but conscious people exhibit "alpha rhythms" in their brain. These are regularly recurring electrical waves. They are 11 "peaks" per second in an alpha state, and the voltages involved are tiny (approximately 50 MILLIONTHS of a volt!). When excited or startled, the alpha rhythms are replaced by a low voltage (37 microvolts), but irregular waves. In sleep, the waves become increasingly slow. Can ghosts be connected with these relaxed mental states?

It might be worthwhile to consider what happens in the brain during a ghost sighting, and ASSAP did use an Electroencephalogram (EEG) to measure this during their vigil of Chislehurst caves many years back; this was in conjunction with a experiment into a connection between the various brain rhythms and hypnosis. An EEG is limited by what it can do: it records only a small sample of electrical activity from the surface, not the interior of the brain.

Perhaps the inclusion of equipment changes the nature of the environment; perturbs it in such a way as to prevent spontaneous cases occurring. A lot has been written about the effect that ghosts have on equipment - in Borley Church, a tape was ripped from the spools of an audio tape recorder; in the Enfield poltergeist case, three flashguns rapidly drained of power, tape machines jammed, tapes were either wholly or partially wiped and a metal part inside one machine was bent; in Rosenheim in Bavaria, a poltergeist somehow created very localized voltage and current surges (which didn't trip the fuses) and even caused investigators to speculate about invisible forces causing direct pressure on the crystal in a microphone, springs inside a telephone and the pen of a instrument that recorded voltage fluctuations on a paper chart. But has anyone ever considered the effects that the introduction of equipment has on the appearance of ghosts-maybe the electrical and magnetic fields reduce the probability of a presence. In the Australian Humpty-Doo case, the Poltergeist would only put on a show once the TV cameras batteries had run out of power, and any witnesses had left the building. An interesting coincidence or just malice on the part of the poltergeist?



Returning to the argument that the barrage of electrical equipment we take on vigils perturb the EM atmosphere so much that we actually inhibiting the very phenomena we are seeking: perhaps it should be ensured that our equipment is shielded for producing such pollution into the environment? Or, what would happen if we could create a machine where the periodic waves of the alpha rhythms are duplicated, but the voltages were increased many fold? Would we be feeding the ghost? Would one appear? I have pondered this question for many years...

And incidentally, why do people report that their batteries have died when on investigations? When one goes on such excursions, one should make sure that virgin batteries, tapes, discs etc. are used ... so why does the power drain so fast? It has been suggested that the mere act of transporting equipment jostles it so much as to affect it, perhaps dislodging the battery, damaging connections etc., but this is nonsense! Imagine the furor if this happened to commonplace items such as camcorders; you take it on holiday and it stops working!

Temperature *can* affect battery life. High temperature increases the rate of chemical reactions, meaning that the battery has a shorter life. Also dependant is whether you use disposable or rechargeable batteries. But there may be another reason why batteries go dead, and that depends on the make of the battery. I installed two batteries in my digital camera a few days ago, and after checking that it worked fine, I turned the camera off. Two days later, I tried the camera; the red "power low" light flashed and the camera turned itself off. The batteries had never been used before - and they were *cheap* batteries, from a "Everything's a pound" (or "Everything's a dollar") store. I don't think the same thing would happen with Ever Ready or Duracell ... in short, I suspect the make of battery has a lot to do with this problem...

In 1997, at a Society for Psychical Research talk, council member Tony Cornell mentioned that their infra-red triggered monitoring system/glorified burglar alarm (called 'SPIDER', or Spontaneous Psychophysical Incident Data Electronic Recorder) had been used for 10 years and had not produced one single, verifiable paranormal event on tape. It has only apparently triggered once in hundreds of deployments, and this was only after 53 days "in the field"! This could imply that humans need to be present for manifestations to occur. But this demonstrates, in this author's opinion, one neglected facet of paranormal research; long-duration research. It seems to be fruitless for a group to turn up for one night only and expect that night to be Halloween. If ghost sightings are as rare as the literature suggests it makes no sense for, say, TAPS, to turn up and expect to gather unequivocal proof in 8 or 9 hours and then pronounce on the "hauntedness" or otherwise of a location when a family may have been cataloguing events for many years. Fortunately, long duration research, include multiple overnight stays have been done at a few locations (Muncaster Castle and, apparently, Chingle Hall).



What about other explanations? The correlation, noted by Canadian scientist Dr. Michael Persinger, on the Earth's magnetosphere (magnetic field) and occurrences of spontaneous psychic events has long since been noted. This is rather akin to the cases of Spontaneous Human Combustion, which were mentioned (controversially) many years ago to follow the same peaks, namely that ESP & Precognition was more likely to occur on days of high geomagnetic activity, and Ghost & Poltergeist activity was more likely to during low geomagnetic activity. Author Albert Budden has also noted that witnesses to paranormal activity are likely to: live near high levels of electromagnetic activity (pylons etc) and/or have been involved in an electromagnetic discharge (lightning strike etc). But one expert is not so sure that the current electrical environment is causing ghost sightings; Tony Cornell of the SPR (Society for Psychical Research) ponders whether they are being inhibited and bemoaned the lack of ghost reports in 2002, blaming possible interference by mobile phone masts. A more reasonable explanation is that with the huge proliferation of ghost groups in the last decade, the finite number of cases are now spread so thinly that some groups – even the revered SPR – receive few such new ghost reports.



As an aside to this main narrative, Dr. Persinger was interviewed on a BBC Horizon documentary, which covered the connection between the brain and religion - Neurotheology. Dr. Persinger noted that the application of weak magnetic fields to the Temporal Lobes of the brain resulted in similar experiences to those who encounter religious or paranormal occurrences. For instance, in one subject, applying a field to the right lobe resulted in the person "sensing a presence". Dr. Persinger thinks that nearly, if not all cases of the paranormal could be explained by such magnetic fields, which could occur from overhead pylons or underground fault lines. To back this assertion up, the BBC showed a reconstruction of a case that Dr. Persinger had investigated. In this case, a young girl was complaining of nightly visitations by an entity. The cause of the disturbances was traced to the EM field of a clock radio, sitting on a table adjacent to the girl's bed. When the clock was removed, the girl reported no further "bedroom invaders". A research team from ASSAP (the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena) has adopted Persinger's ideas, and, under the inspired leadership of Maurice Townsend and Dr. Jason Braithwaite, himself a neuroscientist from the University of Birmingham, and created a laptop based system to test the notion that certain magnetic fields impinging on the human brain may cause hallucinations. Their system is called MADS – Magnetic Anomaly Detection System. Early indications are encouraging.

Some tantalizing experimental evidence does exist that suggests that the stimulation of the brain by an external magnetic field can rekindle old, dormant memories - and 'create' new hallucinations ("Temporal Lobe Epilepsy"): this may explain the many cases of Alien Abduction prevalent throughout the world. The late, much missed Andrew Green recounted a tale that people with TLE might be more prone to supernatural phenomena; this needs more research though. There might also be an element of chaos and 'non-reproducibility of results' involved here: if the reports are anything to go by, phantoms should appear all over the place. Clearly this is not the case. Perhaps they require certain environmental conditions to be (even approximately) met before they appear? The effects of strong magnetic fields on the brain, causing transient Temporal Lobe Epilepsy has been noted above: this can produce hallucinations and was trumpeted as a "explanation" for ghosts. But the actual fields required are so large it is highly doubtful that they could be produced naturally on the Earth. Even arch skeptic Richard Wiseman concedes this point. It may be that high fields are produced in the vicinity of fault lines when Earth Lights appear; after all, if these lights are anything like Ball Lightning, they may require strong fields to cohere the energized particles together.

The Hutchinson Effect is a more recent attempt to mimic Poltergeist activity using electrical and magnetic fields; the equipment, when activated, allegedly caused items to levitate and various items to move seemingly by themselves. Fires would spontaneously erupt, too. The effect of these fields on the human body is quite damaging, and there is talk of electricity being stored by the body, and then released catastrophically. However, if the Hutchinson Effect is a good start to unraveling the mystery of the paranormal, it doesn't seek to explain how such strong electrical or magnetic fields can be generated in the environment.

It also hasn't received much in the way of credibility from the scientific community because it is extremely difficult to reproduce. But, if magnetic fields are a partial answer to this conundrum, then a good, cheap piece of equipment that may be of use during vigils is the magnetic compass; any deviation from North caused by a field would be observable. You don't have to have a big equipment budget to perform science!

An orb. Many enthusiasts claim to be able to tell the difference between spirit orbs and dust orbs. In this author's opinion, they all look the same allowing for minor variations!

A very recent, and in this reviewer's opinion, particularly irksome modern introduction to ghost-hunting are "Orbs", I am not convinced that orbs represent definite signs of Paranormal activity and neither am I convinced that Orbs display the first stage of a physical manifestation (has anyone ever seen this happen?!) I am convinced by experiments done by ASSAP and the Ghost Club that most sightings can be explained by dust, fireflies, lens flare caused by reflections etc. After all, when you go into a "haunted house", you are probably disturbing a lot of dust and muck, which are picked up by cameras. And anyone who says that there are no air currents or dust particles in a room need only look at cobwebs fluttering in a sealed room, or the tiny blobs illuminated in the beam of a torch to know that this is not true. In fairness, there is a pre-digital age precedent for "orbs": the glowing balls of light seen on American Civil War battle fields, and the like, but these are seen by the naked eye too. Most modern "orbs" are only seen by the camera.

Camera manufacturers have done a lot of work to prove that orbs are simply a byproduct of something small and out of focus being illuminated by a flash that is too close to the lens. Canon has even provided a help sheet to educate the public how to eliminate orbs. Parasearch researcher Andrew Homer writes, "...from recent researches it appears that different makes of digital camera have their own orb 'signature'. One particular make even seems to reproduce 'face' type images. Orbs are recognized as a problem by digital camera manufacturers but rarely mentioned in the advertising blurb - no surprise there then!" He also says that the depth of field associated with cameras plus the presence of infra-red illumination, makes anything close to the lens appear to be colored white and in sharp, or near-sharp focus - things like dust, or insects.

This brings me to another topic: the use of digital cameras. Yes, they are handy and convenient, but the images are too easy to manipulate and hence open to the possibility of abuse. These cameras certainly can pick up what the human eye sees and more besides (i.e. slightly into the infra-red portion of the electromagnetic spectrum; try this with a TV remote control emitter). One tale I would like to recount occurred at a vigil to Beaulieu Abbey. One digital camcorder, on super night vision mode (with one new image being recorded every second or so) showed streaks of light.

These were like mobile orbs, with a comet trail, and most of them were moving horizontally, from right to left, although a handful did move diagonally from top right to bottom left. A correspondent on the Fortean Times message board suggested that this might be due to the optics or over exposure of mundane things.



Alleged Spirit Orb



Photo of Dust Orb

I should add here that I was observing the scene through my hand-held image intensifier which was a comparatively simple affair, lacking the software and CCD found in the video camera. I saw no orbs at all. This makes me think that the fault lies in the software in the camera, since it, and my intensifier should see more-or-less the same thing.

In their quest for the "truth", one team, on an internet forum mentioned that they were attempting to prove that orbs are definitely paranormal by positioning four cameras in a square configuration, each camera pointing at one directly opposite. The theory is that if an orb appears in two cameras that are looking at each other, but not the others, then this would prove that orbs are 2 dimensional, and hence must be paranormal, as sparkles caused by water etc. would "apparently" cause 3 dimensional spherical orbs. Such a camera set-up would also prove whether orbs occur close to the camera lens, as has been predicted by the "orb/dust" proponents. ASSAP have also suggested a similar scheme using a 2 camera set-up, called "Orbit." This latter attempt was not attempted; the status of the first is unknown.

It is just highly suspect that orbs and digital photography's introduction were coincident. But why are there so many orb pictures lately? I have seen a few orb photos from 35mm film, but they are very scarce. The reason is, I believe, due to the convenient nature of digital photography; you can take many pictures, delete the ones you want and reuse the camera's memory for other photos. This leads to any perceived "non-paranormal" pictures being removed. Film cameras on the other hand, do not enable an immediate viewing of your photos, plus you have the expense of development costs etc., so you may feel inclined to take few pictures. It is probably not the case that more orb photos are being taken, but simply more photos taken - the majority of which are discarded. Sadly, this means that ghost hunting has turned into a hobby that has become the domain of camera-happy orb obsessive's.

A topic that I would like to mention that requires further research points to sociological aspects of ghost sightings. It was raised by museum curator and historian Jeremy Harte: why are "out of time" ghosts a recent occurrence? To qualify this, ghost reports go back to (at least) Roman times. However, for instance, there are no reports of Elizabethans seeing Roman ghosts. No reports of Tudors seeing Bronze Age phantoms. It wasn't until quite recently (early 20th century???) that we started getting reports of Roman ghosts, and all other periods of history. Why? Were our predecessors so ignorant that they thought that anyone dressed "oddly" wasn't worth a second glance? Or is it because our schooling these days is so advanced that everyone knows what a Roman, Tudor, Elizabethan, Georgian etc. person looks like? My personal theory about this is similar to a "key and lock" mechanism. It requires some psychological conditioning, (knowledge from history or folklore etc. etc.) before a person can see the ghost. If a person is not familiar with how Romans look, then they may see nothing, or perhaps misidentification - for instance, the balls or light or mists that we sometimes see during vigils.

The last point I wish to refer to are those periodic phantoms; the ghosts that such re-enact some event on a regular, periodic basis (comparatively rare)- for Royal phantoms (say) that appear on the anniversary of their execution in the middle ages is bizarre, since with the 10 day shift in dates when Britain changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in the mid-18th century, not to mention the various leap days added to the years by now, such sighting should be days or even weeks away from their expected appearances - But they aren't! Nature itself does not operate on a weeks, months, and year's system- this a purely human invention for the convenience of keeping appointments etc. Surely this must mean some form of human (perhaps psychological) trigger for such periodic events to take place? I have a theory about the seeming fondness for ghosts to keep to such appointments: humans, it must be noted, have a predilection towards observing anniversaries and tend to congregate then, making sightings of ghosts that would have occurred anyway, more likely.

An interesting tale is regaled in the book "Ghost hunter's Handbook": a family were regularly disturbed just before midnight by the sounds of footsteps on the stairs, even though there was no-one there. ASSAP were called and various sensors were placed in locations around the flat; an infra-red sensor was situated on the staircase. Nothing was seen or heard though. The next day, however, upon reviewing the output of the sensors, it seemed that at about five minutes to eleven, the sensors on the stairs were activated and continued to relay data for several minutes. What is interesting in this case is that a few days before, there had been a change from British Summer Time to Greenwich Mean Time. As "Ghost watching" notes: "The implication was that the sensor had triggered at close to midnight, but midnight British Summer Time. The ghost had 'ignored' the change-over to Greenwich Mean Time".

Most ghost stories are accepted unquestioningly by enthusiasts. This should not be the case. For instance, the case of Admiral Tyrone is a perfect example. When he was drowning in the Mediterranean, his ghost was reportedly seen at home in London. Research for "The Unexplained" magazine has debunked this story, and now it is hardly mentioned. One should always go back to the original story and do base research from original sources rather than rely on word of mouth, or stories passed down from book to book, and frequently embellished.

With regards to re-enactment, archaeologist and ghost researcher Chris Huff refers to two famous historical battles- Edge Hill, fought in 1642 and Flodden field in 1513. Both are famous for their visual and audio 'playbacks': indeed, in the years after Edge Hill, King Charles was so concerned about the tales of fighting at Edge Hill that he sent along a team of investigators, who duly noted the phantom fighting (if anyone can provide documented evidence for this sighting, please let me know as I am skeptical of such anniversary ghosts). Edge Hill it seems no longer visualizes (the last recorded case was in the mid-19th century), but Flodden is (allegedly!!) quite active. Sounds of a battle have often been heard and drivers using the A697 have reported soldiers crossing their path.

"The difference", as Chris writes, "is that a power line runs very close to the battle field at Flodden, and this may have prolonged the haunting".

Chris also points out the effect on a haunting caused by the renovation, rebuilding or remodeling of a building and that this can cause sporadic, spontaneous outbursts. Why this latter effect occurs is, like most of parapsychology, unknown. Is it linked to the Stone Tape idea?

To summarize then, it is clear from the meager collection of "experimental" data collected in the field that a great deal of work needs to be done to quantify and qualify the nature of ghosts. Hopefully, with the small but growing band of dedicated amateurs throughout the world some significant advances in our understanding will be achieved as long as some basic protocols, outlined above are met (e.g. don't wave an EMF meter round like a Guy Fawkes Night or July 4th sparkler!). But for those of you lucky enough to have seen a ghost, no amount of argument or debate is necessary for you- you are convinced that they do exist. Now let's try and understand them.



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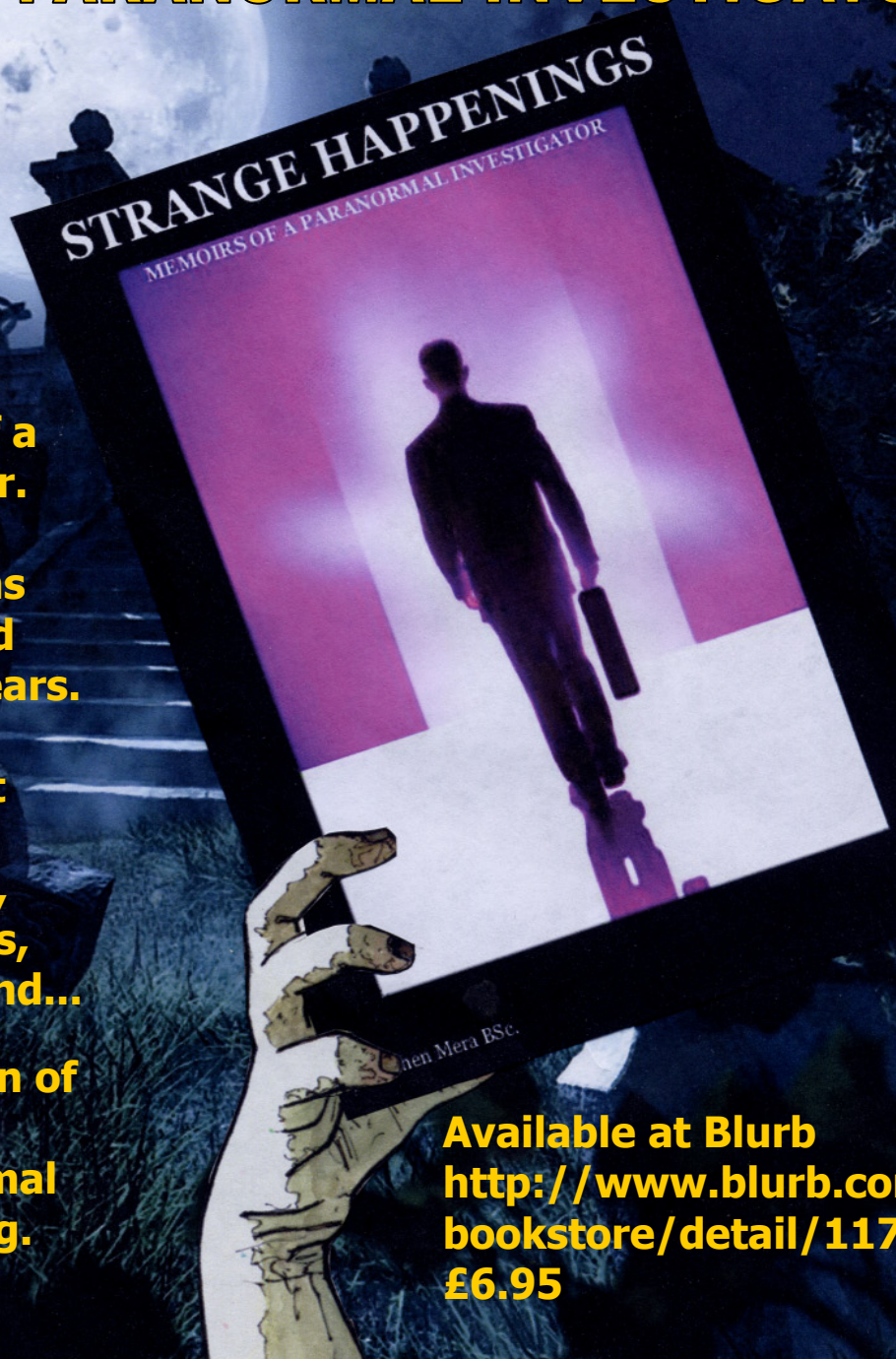
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Stephen is the Chairman of MAPIT - Manchester's Association of Paranormal Investigators & Training.



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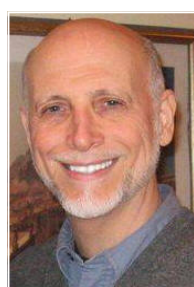
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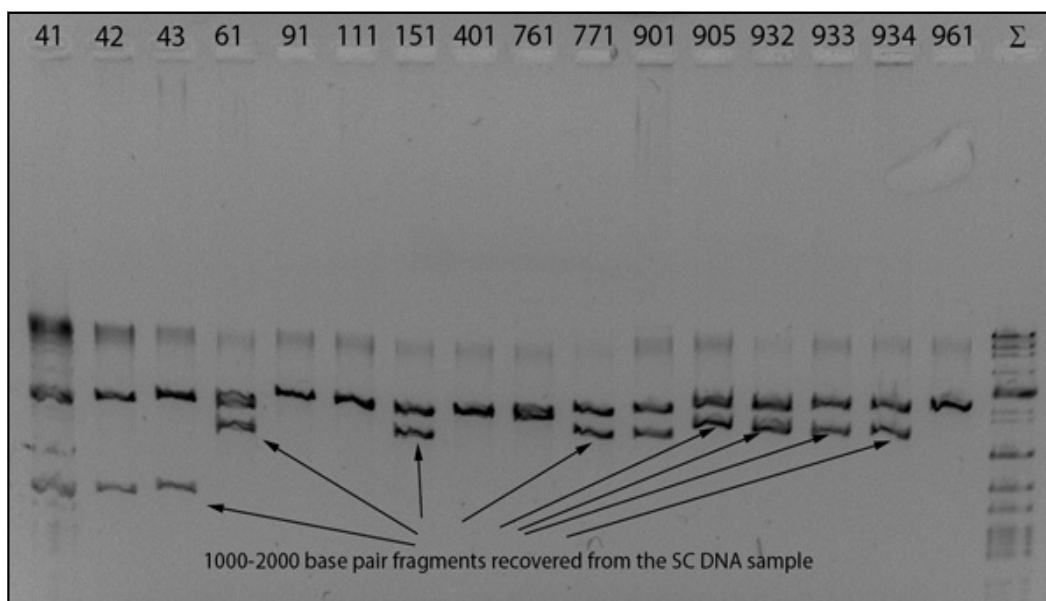
Feed Your Brain



We finally have a recovery of nuclear DNA from the Starchild!

This past weekend I met with the geneticist working on the Starchild's DNA. He explained how he can now prove the Starchild is not entirely human, which has been our position for years. Now it is no longer a question of "if," but of "when" and "how" we spread this astounding new reality beyond the mailing list. First, though, let me bring the list's newcomers up to speed.

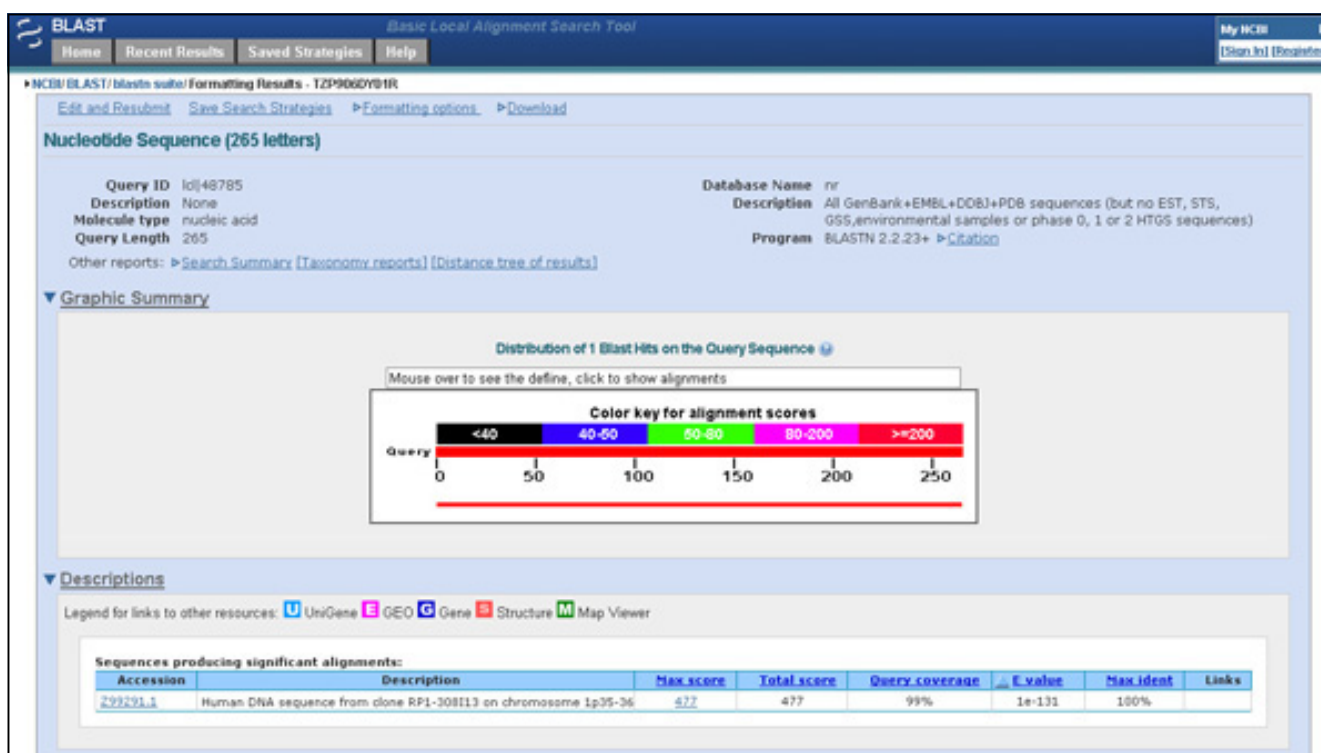
In 2003 we had a DNA analysis that used human-only primers to recover the Starchild's mitochondrial DNA, the DNA outside the nucleus, which comes from the mother and her genetic line. That meant its mother was human. But we could not recover its nuclear DNA, which comes from both mother and father, which meant its father was not a human. Unfortunately, with the recovery technology of 2003 we couldn't prove what he was, which left us in scientific limbo. The "no result" from the search for the nuclear DNA clearly meant Dad wasn't human, but we could not prove that fact beyond all possible doubt.



Now, in 2010, there have been many improvements in the recovery process, and those improvements have been applied to the Starchild skull with the stunning result you see below. This is a gel sheet that shows a clear recovery of its nuclear DNA, which could not be done in 2003.

The next two screen shots are taken from the national genetic database at the National Institute of Health, NIH. That public-access database is a centralized repository of all genetic information generated by geneticists all over the world, and now covers essentially all living organisms on Earth, from various kinds of viruses and bacteria, to various kinds of crustaceans and fish, to all kinds of animals and plants, including great apes and humans.

For many species, humans included, there are already nucleotide sequences covering entire genomes. Therefore, sequences from the Starchild's DNA can be directly compared against this vast database to look for any matches. In one such comparison below, you see the text below the blue line at the bottom (if you can read it, sorry it's so fuzzy) that 265 base pairs (a good length) of recovered Starchild nuclear DNA matches perfectly with a gene on human chromosome 1. This verifies beyond any degree of doubt that some of the nuclear DNA seen in the gel sheet is from a human being.



In the one below, and again at the bottom, you see the stunning report that in a string of 342 base pairs (another good length), "No significant similarity (is) found." To recover a stretch of base pairs as long as that with NO reference in the NIH database is astounding because it means there is no known earthly corollary for what has been analyzed! This incredible anomaly will put the Starchild in history books!!!

BLAST Basic Local Alignment Search Tool

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Nucleotide Sequence (342 letters)

Query ID	Id 15997	Database Name	nr
Description	None	Description	All GenBank+EMBL+DDBJ+PDB sequences (but no EST, STS, GSS, environmental samples or phase 0, 1 or 2 HTGS sequences)
Molecule type	nucleic acid	Program	BLASTN 2.2.23+ Citation
Query Length	342		

No significant similarity found. For reasons why, [click here](#).

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Please understand that this result has now been verified several times, and a few more different fragments have been identified that cannot be matched in this database to anything known. Despite that fact, mainstream skeptics will be obligated by their positions to try to say it's some kind of gibberish or some kind of mistake because in their world view it simply can't be true.

Luckily, their bleating protests can be easily overcome with continued repetition of the result, finding more and more similar fragments in the library that will be created from the Starchild's DNA, which is what the geneticist is confident will happen over the next weeks and months---nothing but verification that a significant part of the Starchild's genome is not found on Earth.

I should add that I still can't reveal the name of the geneticist or where he works until we are ready to formally present his results to the world. However, trust me, he is a well-established professional and his facility is large and very credible. They don't want to be bombarded by media until they are prepared for it, and neither do I for that matter. Just know that you are a part of the "inner circle" of those who have put your faith in a dream that is now coming true.

Lloyd Pye
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THE UFO ACADEMY

The UFO Academy is the first group of its kind and is being organised by a small group of people from Hertfordshire who have an interest in all things paranormal but especially the UFO phenomena. We are keen to investigate all aspects including the spiritual connection which involves ideas about 2012. As the group grows we hope to network worldwide with video conferencing, and creating DVD's. We will hope to build up a regular meeting opportunity and a forum to show or discover footage and/or experiences. It will grow and develop with the people that come along and take part. It is open to everyone interested from anywhere in the world.

1st Meeting..... March 28th 2010

The line up of speakers for March 28th are BEAMS Investigations, Nick Pope, Steve Jones and Harry Challenger. The most exciting part will be the open discussion forum where anything and everything goes. Let's chat and share experiences or opinions and try and see the bigger picture.

Sunday 28th March - Garston Manor, High Elms Lane, Watford, WD25 0JX
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NICK POPE & STEVE JONES

There are no immediate bars or restaurants available but there are plenty within driving distance. We will be selling tea, coffee, buns and biscuits. We also hope to have a bar with soft drinks and lager

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THE BEAST OF BUCKSHAW

BY **Kirst D'Raven & Steve Mera**

Over 25 years of investigating UFOs and the paranormal I have on occasion been asked to look into Big Cat sightings throughout the country. Even though I consider these to be non-paranormal in nature and more likely to be associated with animals that had been let loose to roam after the 1976 Animal Act came into force or simply the odd animal that had escaped a zoo or sanctuary. The subject of Cryptozoology seems to cover the investigation of such big cats and now and again finds its way into numerous organisations that investigate and research the paranormal. I have to-date investigated only a handful of incidents, as to my knowledge there does seem to be some compelling evidence to suggest these big cats are in fact real, living and breeding in the rural areas of our country. Hair and scat samples are just one avenue of evidence, supported by credible eye witnesses, photographs and video footage.

Of course, the most significant evidence is probably large prints and the killing of livestock. There have been so many incidents sweeping across the United Kingdom that its next to impossible to ignore the plausibility of such wild animals living amongst us.

On Wednesday January 20th 2010, The Citizen newspaper reported that a farm in Rivington had been plagued with animal attacks. Farmer John Needham had reported the loss of over 20 sheep. Of course, most people will quickly jump to the conclusion that it must have been a large predator such as a big cat. But, in this circumstance the attacks were not down to large cats, but dogs. In many cases the sheep were left so badly injured that they had to be put down. Large cats rarely attack so many animals, they seem to stalk out their prey, attack and devour. Sometimes livestock die of natural causes and are scavenged upon by birds, foxes etc. So imagine my surprise to hear of a severely mutilated deer in the small village of Buckshaw which is just a few miles from Rivington. I had seen the photograph of the mutilated deer in the national newspapers accompanied with an article that read 'The Mystery Buckshaw Beast that is savaging animals and terrorizing villagers'. Another photograph showing some type of mysterious beast had been submitted by a local resident.

Well... As I was packing the essentials; sample bags, plaster, mixing pot, gloves, measuring tape, camera etc, I realised that I was going to need some help. I contacted an associate of mine, Kirst D'Raven, who specializes in the investigation of animal deaths. Her method of investigation is somewhat CSI style. She was perfect for the job. I contacted Kirst and gave her the newspaper details knowing too well that she would be straight onto the newspaper offices...

Kirst explains...

The Dawn Chorus in rural Derbyshire can be a wonderful treat to behold. The sound of blackbirds vying for the role of lead vocalist against the raucous braying of lesser vocally gifted members of the Corvid family, all supported by a veritable choir of bleating sheep makes one wonder how anyone in this pastoral county ever sleeps beyond the hour of daybreak. Add to this the rather unbecoming addition of the first verse and chorus of Korn's 'Freak on a Leash' and to me at least it can only herald one event... my mobile phone is ringing and I'm going to have to drag myself from the haven of my duvet and answer the darn thing - and generally speaking, if the first thing I hear when I answer the phone is Steve Mera's voice saying 'Have you got a pen?' it doesn't really bode well either.

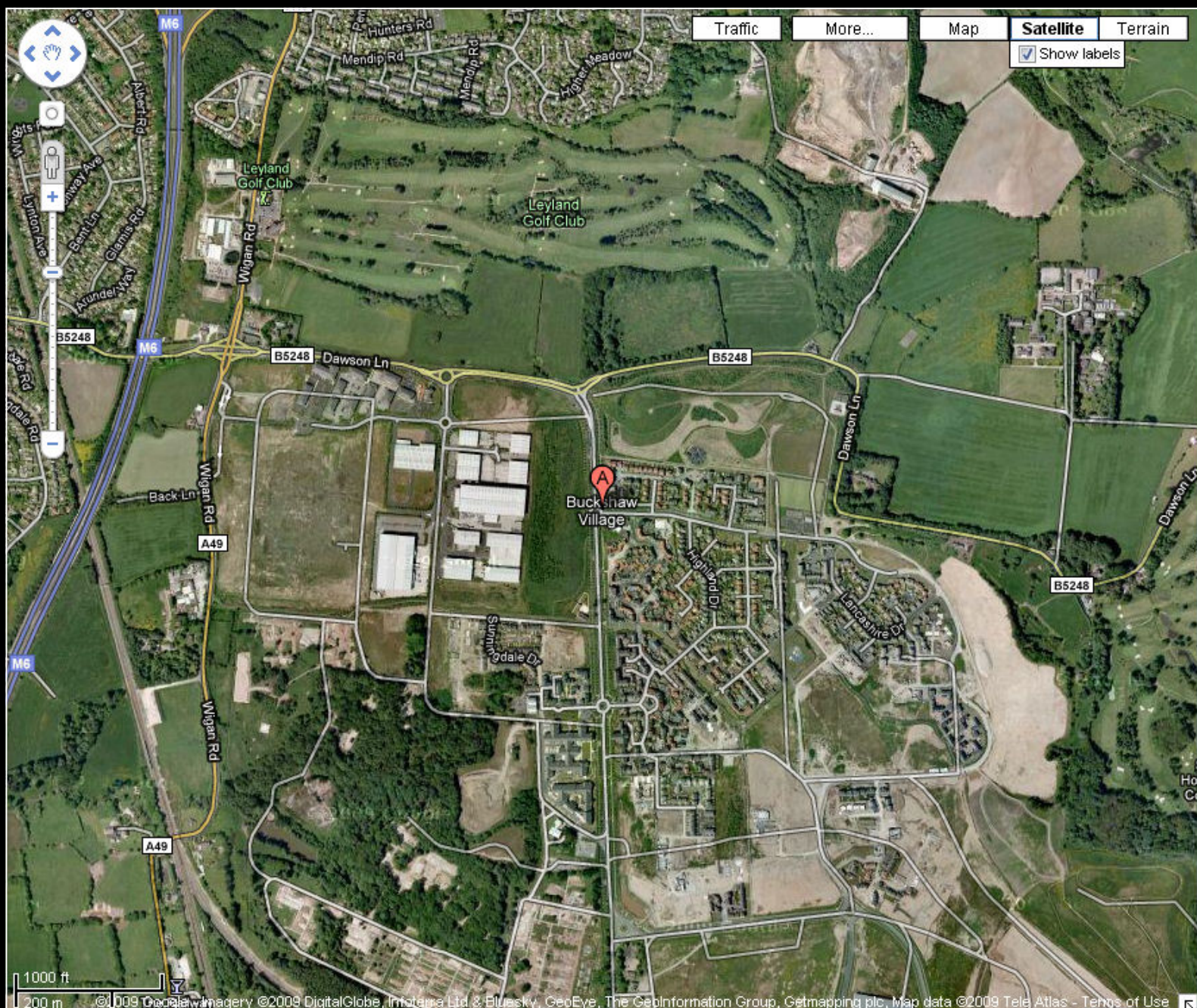
Steve told me of a report of a mutilation case in Lancashire. Apparently a deer had been found severely mutilated in the area, and the press had released a picture taken by a local which appeared to depict some kind of beast which was now suspected of carrying out the attack. Something stirred in the back of my sleepy mind when he mentioned the name of the village the attack had taken place, and promptly went back to sleep. It happens a lot - when you're a full time paranormal investigator and researcher you find that you know a tale or two of a haunt or a UFO sighting or something that may be regarded as paranormal from pretty much any area anyone cares to mention, and when you've been obsessively prying about in this field of study for as long as I have, you can generally quote the cases word for word.

The details of the report seemed a little scant and vague, so I contacted Karl Holdsworth from the Chorley Guardian to see if anything had been withheld from the report. Karl informed me that the details that had gone to press were pretty much all they had, but that he would email pictures of the deer carcass in the hope that I may be able to shed some light on what species of animal could possibly have caused the injuries, warning me that the pictures were pretty gruesome, which was why they hadn't been published in the paper.

The email arrived almost instantly...

Images of this nature are never pleasant, and this case was no exception. The picture showed a young deer, probably female which had pretty much been torn apart. Lying on her side with her back to the camera, I could only hope that whatever had ended her life had been quick with little suffering. Due to the poor quality of the picture it was virtually impossible to discern individual wounds that may have been fatal, so I started to inspect the picture inch by inch to see what exactly I was dealing with.

The first thing that struck me was the lack of blood at the scene. Deer are prey animals, their fight or flight response is highly developed, which means even the slightest threat of a predator will cause their heart rate to escalate, thus pumping blood around their bodies at a rate of knots. The average BPM of a resting adult deer is around thirty seven beats per minute, around the same as a resting, mature racehorse. The pulse of a horse that has been around the track can escalate as high as 220 – 240 BPM, I can only assume that a fleeing deer could very possibly be in the same range. In short, an injured deer bleeds like a tap. The lack of blood in this instance could mean one of two things – the deer was shot while resting or the deer was killed elsewhere. Hurrah! Two possibilities to prove or debunk – I was going to need more coffee...



Looking at the picture closely, it became clear that the deer had definitely been moved. The dead giveaway (excuse the pun) was that the animals exposed spine had actually been positioned back to front, as had its front leg..., also there was a distinct lack of body fat and tissue, the stomach appeared to be missing yet other organs were still present..., it very quickly became clear that there was a lot more to this case than met the eye. The deer had in effect been reassembled for the photograph.

I decided to leave the picture alone for the moment and to take a look at the alleged 'Beast' picture. I didn't have a copy, so, I followed in the footsteps of so many great researchers before me, and typed 'Buckshaw Beast' into the search engine of my PC.

I wasn't really prepared for the result...

The Beast of Buckshaw, as some imaginative soul had decided to christen it, had made the big-time. Almost every national newspaper had picked up the story, forums as far afield as Germany and Canada were discussing this animal described variously as a cross between a boar and a wolf, a bear, a hyena and my personal favorite, an unknown species. Sadly, on viewing the picture I recognized our perpetrator straight away. In June 2007, a Falconer photographed what he believed to be a cat of some description on Dartmoor. He described the animal to be the size of a miniature pony, and promptly dispatched the series of six photos to Mark Fraser of Big Cats In Britain. Mark immediately saw the photos for what they truly were, no doubt, but inevitably the press got hold of the story and what was later found to be a photo of Troy a Newfoundland dog out for his accustomed stroll were flouted as 'The Beast of Dartmoor' to anyone who cared to believe the story.

The photo that appeared on my search engine was Troy in his latest incarnation, The Beast of Buckshaw. Strike two on the case, first a reassembled mutilation, now the resurrected 'Beast' photo. I decided to dig a little deeper...

Meanwhile Steve had been doing some digging of his own. He'd turned up a veritable cornucopia of links to news stories from the area in and around Buckshaw village – A black fox which had been photographed in a churchyard, a series of dog attacks on sheep in the area WITH witnesses, A case from 2006 or thereabouts (which again set my memory stirring) of several domestic animals that had been found in the village, tortured and burned – I'm an animal lover, cases like these stick in my mind.

It began to seem that the more we looked, the more this case seemed to be somehow wrong. Then, as I scanned down yet another page of Buckshaw references, I found a link to the Buckshaw Village Facebook group – I almost held my breath as I waited for the page to open, hoping that it wasn't the type of group you had to join to view the posts...

My twenty minutes hard labor searching the internet was rewarded almost instantly as post after post, claiming the Beast had been photographed in the area by a local on his new Nokia phone. Quick note to anyone planning to try and hoax any type of paranormal or odd photo – don't. Having already secured the ORIGINAL photo file from Mark, I already knew that the pictures had been taken on the 8th June 2007 at around 6.30 in the evening – this matched the falconers report exactly, but sadly made the facebook forum posters claim to the pictures (which I was never provided the original file for) a great big hairy hoax.

Nevertheless, a report was compiled and Steve and I wandered up to Chorley in the snow the following Monday to meet with Karl the reporter, hand over our findings and to carry out a site search just to be on the safe side. We found no evidence of anything untoward in the area, not in an animal sense at least. Karl accepted our conclusions with an almost resigned air, and promised to contact us if any more reports came in. We returned to Derbyshire and spent the next four hours crunching data from a prior paranormal investigation in Staffordshire.

The photographs...

The photograph that appeared in the national & international newspapers was one of 6 photos taken in Dartmoor.

The first photograph to the right is the one that appeared in the newspapers. Below is another photograph which was taken, clearly showing that the mysterious beast is nothing more than a dog.

The official report on the Buckshaw Hoax case was forwarded to every newspaper, forum and blog which had featured the original Buckshaw story, some of which actually had the intelligence to print it.

End of Story?... Not Quite.

What happened to the originators of the hoax? The good natured villagers with a wicked sense of humor, distracting the Police search for illegal deer hunters and unrestrained dogs (and dog owners) that are really putting animals lives in danger and causing quite an 'amusing' little stir of mass hysteria among some of the more sensitive locals?

Well, if the forum posters are to be believed there is a distinct possibility that they were abducted by government officials trying to cover up the story. My personal belief is that they had the good sense to disappear before the holder of the copyright to the Dartmoor photo turned up. This belief slightly married by the fact that there are still half hearted, photoshopped images of werewolves posing in front of the village statue cropping up... The statue which Steve and I had earlier affectionately nicknamed 'The Wicker Man'...

Case closed?...

On this occasion, yes. After all, a good investigator always knows when to take a step back and let the Police do their work...





Throughout the centuries UFOs hovered over Russia, and USOs (Unidentified Undersea Objects) lurked in its waters. This book introduces the phenomena of the most important cases, observations, and sightings. UFO CASE FILES OF RUSSIA endeavours to describe efforts of those dedicated researchers who have stubbornly pursued UFO research in the Russian Empire, the USSR, and modern Russia. The evidence in this piece of literature is extensive both in scope and detail. In its totality, it comprises a body of evidence written in the style of a Russian, which at the very least supports the general assessment of describing as fully as possible Soviet and Russian UFO cases, research areas, prominent personalities involved in such research (military, intelligence agencies, cosmonauts and civilians), opinions and viewpoints of those who were and are serious in their approach to the study of anomalous phenomena.

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Written by Philip Mantle from the UK and Paul Stonehill, originally from the Ukraine, east meets west for the first time in this unique publication.

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UFO MAGAZINE REQUEST.

I (Malcolm Robinson) have just agreed to become assistant Editor of a brand new newsstand magazine entitled UFO Matrix with Philip Mantle as the Editor. I write to you to ask you as someone who has an interest in such matters, if you would kindly consider sending me any articles that you have written on UFOs for consideration in our magazine. Your article should solely be on UFOs and consist of no more than 4 A4 pages and should be not less than 2 and a half pages. As a side issue, should you have any thing that you wish to advertise with us then please let me know as we can look at advertising rates with you. This new UFO magazine is a fantastic opportunity to UFOlogists the world over to present their findings, thoughts and case files, which will be seen by thousands across the U.K. and the rest of the world (as we will be looking to distribute this magazine to other parts of the globe.) Since the sad and untimely demise of UFO Magazine and other such British publications, we at 11th Dimension Publications aim to restore the vacuum left by these publications and provide the valuable information that the British and overseas public have a right to see. And as stated we look to people like you and other researchers and authors to share in getting this information out to the public.

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The BITC is constructed under the guidelines set by SEP—The Scientific Establishment of Parapsychology and is compiled by investigators, academics and scientists from around the world. Students can contact MAPIT if they are having any difficulties whilst sitting the BITC. Useful information can also be found on our new MAPIT Web Site :

<http://www.mapit.kk5.org>

Students that pass the BITC can obtain assistance with investigation, research, analysis or be put in contact with an organisation in their area. Many organisations across the country recognise the BITC qualification and are well aware of our standards. Our qualification may allow students to join an organisation and immediately become activists without the need to sit other courses. BITC Examination papers require 75% of questions to be correct. Anything less will result in failure. The BITC can be sat by students of any age and need no previous knowledge. Further courses are available such as the AITC Advanced Course. The AITC is only available to BITC Registered students. MAPIT & SEP can also assist in regards further studies and UK available courses in Forensic Parapsychology, Anomalistic Psychology and many others. Organisations that have their investigators BITC Registered can become associated with SEP. Associated groups, organisations & establishments can obtain assistance from SEP & MAPIT in regards investigation, research, administration etc and must adhere to the SEP & MAPIT Protocols. SEP & MAPIT will also distribute investigations to associated groups, organisations and establishments if in the locality of the investigation. SEP & MAPIT also offer their full range of services such as analysis, training sessions, events etc.

The BITC costs just £50.00 in total consisting of Registration £10.00 & Coursework £40.00
Total U.S. Overseas cost \$120.00
Total European cost Euro 60.00

If interested in sitting the BITC or AITC course, simply send your total course fee to MAPIT Head Office, making sure to include your full postal address and details of which course you would like to obtain. Please make any cheques or postal orders payable to 'MAPIT'.

UPIA are currently looking for active members that are interested in taking part in investigation & research. Meetings are held in Congleton every month. If interested, please contact Dave Sadler: quoting the Reference Number : 26411 Dave Sadler Tel : 07805 688610
E-Mail : SADLER_DAVE@YAHOO.CO.UK